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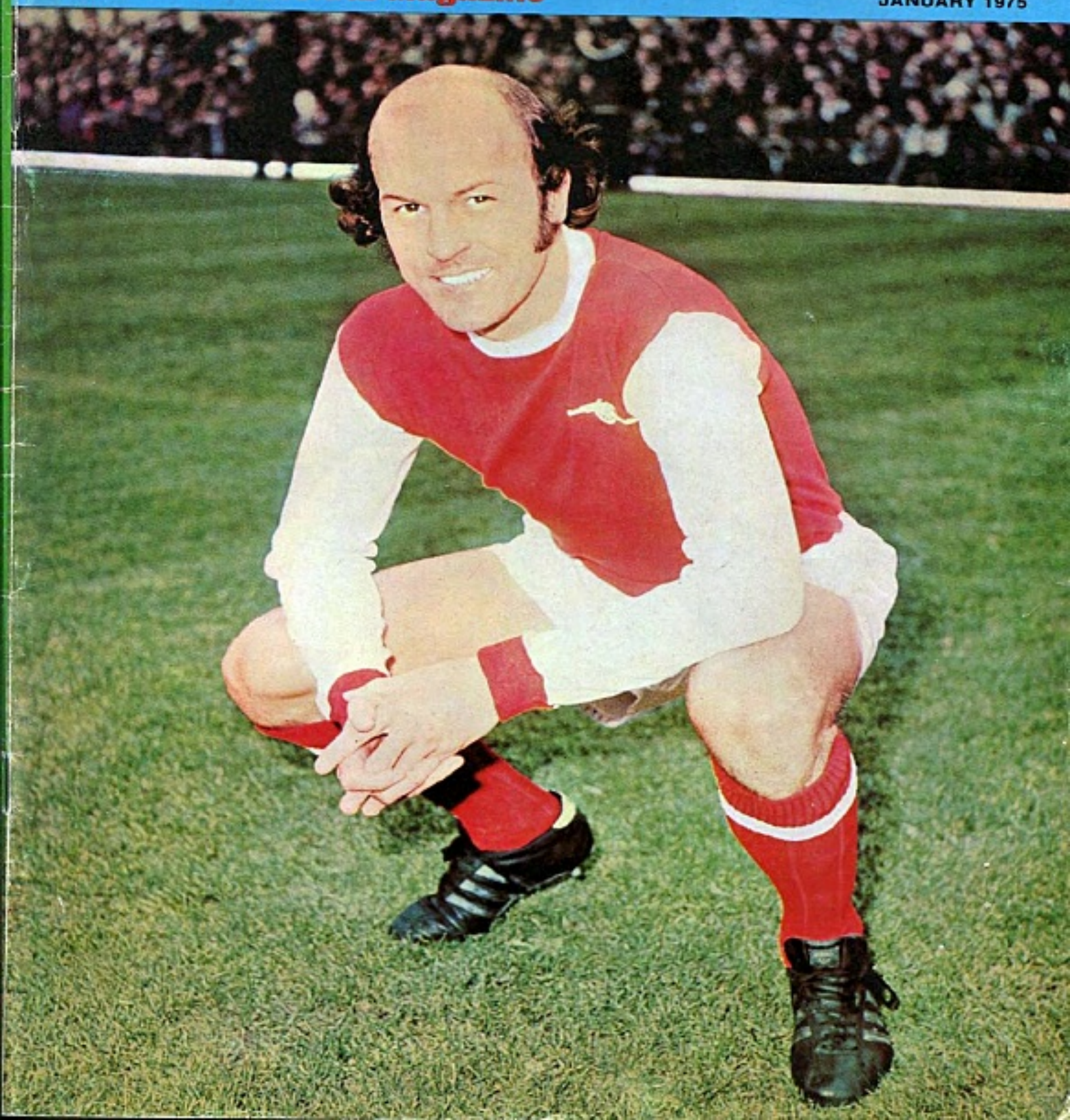

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Derby out—only Leeds still in...

DERBY COUNTY'S exit from the UEFA Cup by Velez Mostar—the subject of an appeal by the English club—leaves only Leeds United left to carry the Union Jack this season. Leeds, although their form in the Football League has been erratic, have looked in no trouble so far but will obviously hope to avoid Barcelona in particular when the draw is made for the quarter finals this month.

It is a sad commentary on the decline in playing standards here — or perhaps it is more truthful to state that neither the first division in England, and therefore the national side as well, has kept pace with the progress made in countries such as West Germany, Holland and, more recently, Spain.

There are signs that things are improving. It is good to see West Ham United, traditionally the aristocrats of the first division, challenging for honours instead of languishing near the foot of the table. West Ham are achieving the results they lacked in recent years and although there is more bite in their game nowadays, the level of skill and flair has not been foresaken.

Almost ten years ago West Ham were themselves proud English representatives in Europe. Who can forget their superb Cup Winners Cup victory over Munich 1860 at Wembley in 1965? And there were other battles which warmed the heart.

It would be good to see them back in the European fold, especially at a time when so few English clubs seem suitably equipped, either in terms of players or managerial thinking, to tackle the necessary tasks.

Rumours that the 1978 World Cup finals will not be staged in Argentina persist. It is now stated that Holland and Belgium are to put in a joint bid to hold the finals should political and financial problems in the Argentine rule them out.

However, it would seem more likely that should the Argentine be passed over, another South American country (most probably Brazil) would hastily step in.

To date FIFA have been steadfast in their support of the Argentine (publicly at least) but at the same time recognising that the general situation could change day by day.

Should FIFA decide at this juncture to deprive the Argentina of their chance and hand over the 1978 Finals to Holland and Belgium the reaction could split the organisation in such a way that it would never recover.

Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

Kolar of Ujpest Dozsa heads clear from Gordon McQueen (5) and Terry Yorath (4) of Leeds United. Leeds won 5-1 on aggregate in this European Cup tie to reach the last sixteen.

FRONT COVER PICTURE

Pictured on the front cover this month is the Arsenal and Eire centre-half Terry Mancini. This jovial character, who has had a new lease of life in recent years, recently moved from Queens Park Rangers. He was also the subject of an FA ban after dropping his shorts at the end of a game for QPR. Mancini has been a vital cog in the Eire team which is doing so well in the European Championship.

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PLAYERS F

LESLIE VERNON puts the Wo

Mike Channon—a whole string of clubs would be on his trail if he were free to negotiate his own contract.

AND the lemmings of football continue to march relentlessly towards the open sea . . . The latest chapter of this suicidal madness is the demand for the so-called freedom of contract by the players. But before we discuss in detail this proposition, let's specify that the move has been initiated by the leadership of the P.F.A., and not by the bulk of its members.

At present, the Professional Footballers Association is run by its urbane, sincere chairman, Derek Dougan, its committee members, which include the equally likeable, well-intentioned Terry Venables, and the paid sec. Cliff Lloyd, one of the nicest men in football.

Why is it then, that such an able triumvirate has set the game on the wrong course? For the record, freedom of contract means that when a player's written agreement runs out, he is free to negotiate a signing-on fee with his own club, or simply to to another, without a transfer fee. In practice, this enables the star player to blackmail his club, and if they refuse to be intimidated he can put himself on the open market and eventually go to the highest bidder.

Unemployed

But the lesser players can easily find themselves unemployed at the end of their contracts, because the small clubs won't be able to carry a full-time staff on their shrinking gate receipts, and without any revenue from transfers.

As Gordon Jago put it, this system would ring the deathknell for the various youth schemes introduced by the clubs—what's the point in developing players, if they can simply walk out at the end of their apprenticeship. Jackie Charlton, another shrewd observer of the football scene, said that the prospect of the 'freedom of contract' frightens him, because club loyalty would die in the mad rush for money.

In my view, the main problem is that the P.F.A. at present suffers from schizophrenia, and has lost sight of its proper function. If it is a Trade Union, then it must act as such, and consider the interests of all its members. By its insistence on contractual reform, it endangers the livelihood of at least 1000 footballers.

That cannot be right! Derek Dougan speaks about "skilled workers" who have a basic right to choose their employers. He omits to mention that these

S FREEDOM

the World Soccer viewpoint

very same skilled (that's a laugh in itself!) workers are treated like demi-gods, looked after and cosseted by the clubs.

It is an open secret that they draw under - the - counter money every time they change clubs (see Bill Nicholson's recent outburst!), they pay nominal rent for luxury accommodation, given cars etc. I do not begrudge them these perks and privileges. But you cannot claim to be "cattle in a market place"—as Terry Venables did one minute, and expect, no, demand, to be treated as a star entertainer the next!

Security

The proper function of a Trade Union is to achieve the best possible working conditions and security for its members, while it gives a fair chance for that particular industry itself to prosper. The P.F.A. unwittingly wrecks football in pursuit of a principle, quite a valid one, I concede, which benefits only a precious few. But perhaps the P.F.A., as its name suggests, considers itself as a "Professional Association", like the "Law Society".

In that case, it is responsible for its members' conduct, behaviour and ethics. Has the P.F.A. ever censored a player for asking illegal payment from a club? Have they ever reprimanded a member for breaking a fellow member's leg, or spitting into his face, or for making indecent gestures to the crowd? No, Sir! On the contrary!

When a player is sent-off and appeals ("It wasn't the ref. I was swearing at, it was my mum-in-law in the crowd"), there go the solicitous Terry and Cliff to give a helping hand at the hearing. Whitewashing these villains and bad tempered, big headed, pampered "stars" is not the function of such an august body as a "Professional Association".

History

The P.F.A. has a long, and in many ways, praiseworthy history. Under Jimmy Hill, they achieved a great deal—and not only the abolition of the maximum wage clause. Gradually, footballers became respected members of the society, which, in the sixties, was searching for working class heroes in all fields of the entertainment industry. But the Bobby Charltons of that era realized that football must remain essentially a sport, otherwise it loses its appeal.

Despite the huge transfer deals, the George Best affair, the wrangling between managers and players, the decline in playing standards and morals, the failure of the England team, the public kept faith with football. Only in this country can a Second Division match attract 60,000 people! But this misguided "freedom of contract" move would be the last straw, as it would ruin our league structure.

Prosperous

Even the relatively prosperous small town clubs, like Burnley, Ipswich etc., could be forced to go part-time. The First Division—not unlike in Holland or Belgium—would consist of a few star-studded teams, and the others, not able to compete financially with the big boys, would be there to make up the numbers.

The one-sided games would attract even less spectators, and this vicious circle could justify the prophets of doom who talk of a dying game. It isn't too late yet, and let me echo the warning, cautious words of Gordon Jago. "One hopes that a satisfactory compromise can be reached between the governing bodies and the P.F.A."

Touring

And now a touch of light relief. A few years ago, Vasas, the Hungarian football club, was touring in France. While staying in Nice, the players were invited to visit an old gentleman who was an ardent socialist all his life, and also a lover of football. As the guests left the old boy, each of them was given a painted vase made by their host, as a present. But during the long train journey back to Budapest, these bored young lads spent their time slinging the vases out of the windows, making small bets on who could throw his "present" furthest. Only one player kept his vase, because his wife liked knick-knacks. His name—Jozsef Raduly. The old gent, who so generously gave away these ill-treated souvenirs was —Pablo Picasso . . .

Johan Cruyff with the award he received for being voted the outstanding player in the 1974 World Cup finals.

European Cup hold

LATTE BAYER

Gerd Muller—still scoring regularly.

UDO LATTEK, the 39-year-old who has led Bayern Munich to the West German championship three times, the Cup once and made them into European Champions, has been overthrown.

And Franz Beckenbauer and Gerd Müller clearly had a big say in the events which led up to the decision that Lattek will be out at the end of the season.

Lattek, coach since March, 1970, had a row with millionaire president Wilhelm Neudecker early in the season and has lately had his differences with general manager Robert Schwan over team selection, tactics and transfers.

Report by Keir Radnedge

In the meantime Bayern — never out of the top two during Lattek's reign — picked up only 14 points from their first 15 games and were fourth from bottom of the *Bundesliga*.

After a 3-0 defeat at Bochum Neudecker summoned a crisis meeting of Schwan, Beckenbauer, Müller and, of course, Lattek — once assistant to national team boss, Helmet Schön.

The result of the meeting was this statement:

"The president, trainer, general manager and team captain Franz Beckenbauer and Gerd Müller have had urgent talks about the present state of the team. All are in agreement that efforts must be made to ensure that Bayern qualify for one of the three European competitions next season.

"The president has accepted the suggestion of trainer Lattek that his contract be cancelled at the end of the season."

As blunt as that. . . .

Lattek's contract was not due to end until the summer of 1976, having been extended for two years by a grateful president after the Champions' Cup triumph over Atletico Madrid.

Schedule

Lattek, I know, feels that the many money-spinning friendlies Bayern took on before the season were greatly to blame for his team's stale performance in the league.

But the match schedule is not the responsibility of Lattek, but of Schwan, who, in addition to being general manager, is also Franz Beckenbauer's business agent.

There were other difficulties during the summer too — such as 23-year-old Paul Breitner's transfer to Real Madrid. Breitner was as much an individualist off the field as on it, and did not see eye-to-eye with Neudecker.

les hit by internal disagreements

EK TO LEAVE RN—HOENESS SUSPENDED

But it is worth making the point that he was discovered playing with little ESV Freilassig by none other than Lattek himself — as was Uli Hoeness.

Hoeness, another of Bayern's World Cup stars — the only one to steer clear of the mud-slinging has been goalkeeper Sepp Maier — has spent a large part of the season injured and didn't please Lattek when he went off on a publicity tour to pass the time.

At least he later made a handsome apology — agreeing that all his bonuses in both December and January should be paid to an old people's home.

At one stage Neudecker himself tried to suggest changes in the training programme, and this produced the bitter confrontation between president and trainer which blew up in mid-October.

Failure

After Neudecker had publicly criticised Lattek's failure to keep the team in top form, Lattek stormed: "I know we're doing badly. I'm not a little boy who has to have everything spelt out for him."

It was even strongly rumoured that Beckenbauer would be invited to take over the team as caretaker manager, but the prospect which then arose of a Champions Cup clash with Magdeburg appeared to head off the trouble.

It appeared that someone somewhere realised that it would be foolish to go into the tie without Lattek's experience. So he stayed in his job, and even started ordering his men to cut down on outside interests and concentrate solely on football.

Business

Even Beckenbauer was constrained to toe the line of course. He had spent the evening before the game with Eintracht Braunschweig at a business meeting and Bayern had lost 3-1!

Still, when they beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 2-1, away, it seemed they had turned the corner. And, there was another ray of hope that Bayern hadn't gone into a permanent decline in the way they disposed of Magdeburg in the Champions' Cup.

Few opponents could have been tougher than Magdeburg — East German champions and Cup Winners' Cup holders — yet not only did Bayern win 3-2 in Munich, but 2-1 in East Germany.

Müller, despite playing with a broken toe, showed that though he may have retired from the national team, he is still a force to be reckoned with, by scoring twice in each match.

Injuries have hampered Bayern: midfield men Franz Roth and Rainer Zobel and Swedish striker Conny Torstensson have had long spells on the sidelines and £150,000 close-season signing Klaus Wunder, the former MSV Duisburg left-winger, has taken much longer to settle than expected.

It was ambition which took the 24-year-old to Munich.

"I wanted to be champion at least once, and I wanted to play in the Champions' Cup," he said recently.

Threat

Well, he has played in the Champions' Cup, but the championship . . . "Not being champions is a real threat now. I reckon that we are worth at the least a place in the top three. What has surprised me is the stupid and unlucky way — mainly stupid — in which we have thrown points away."

Wunder, as I said, has had difficulty settling down and he was candid enough to admit that: "Now I know why so many good outside-lefts have fallen flat on their face at Bayern."

The reason is not a matter of personality, rather of style, but it must have been an added problem that the club made such a horrific start to the season, losing the first match 6-0 — a record defeat — away to Sigi Held's Offenbach Kickers.

Later came a 2-0 home defeat against Schalke — the first home beating for 73 matches and the first of Lattek's reign — and, the bubble having burst, a 5-2 home defeat at the hands of Roland Sandberg's Kaiserlautern.

To borrow a well-worn adage from another sport: The bigger they are, the harder they fall.

Sepp Maier—has kept out of trouble.

Bulgaria bri in new blood

Bulgaria 0, Hungary 0
Czechoslovakia 2, Poland 2
Turkey 0, Austria 1
Greece 3, Cyprus 1
Switzerland 3, Portugal 0
France 2, East Germany 2
Greece 2, West Germany 2
Holland 3, Italy 1
England 0, Portuglal 0
Scotland 1, Spain 2
Wales 5, Luxembourg 0
Turkey 1, Eire 1

Bulgaria 0 Hungary 0

AFTER the much criticised 4-2 win over little Luxembourg the Hungarian squad was—on paper at least—re-inforced by the recall of their most experienced and still gifted forward, Ferenc Bene, of Ujpest Dozsa.

Both sides badly needed a good win to boost their players' confidence and public interest and the result was a hard fought battle that culminated with the sending off of the Hungarian *libero* Laszlo Balint.

The new Bulgarian team manager, 54 year-old Stojan Ormandiev, found himself facing the same problems that have hampered his predecessors—an almost total failure of the attacking players to get goals. Going for new blood, Ormandiev retained only Denev bringing in Alexandrov and Kurbanov (new caps) and the midfield 'bomber' (at club level) Borissov.

No doubt he was right to experiment but the scoreline suggests he didn't get an answer to his problems and this is underlined by the fact that Sokolov and Mintschev (more new caps) replaced Kurbanov and Borissov in the second half.

'Golden boy'

Christo Bonev is still the 'golden boy' of Bulgarian sport but even he must by now be feeling frustrated—with all his skill as a creative attacking midfield player, he deserves a better response up front.

Temporary Hungarian boss Ede Moor had reason to be more satisfied with his team than did the Bulgarians. Playing away and reduced to ten men (when the Hungarians played some of their best football) a draw seems a moral victory but the Hungarian game needs a sensational boost today and it is tragic that their game has gone back so much in 20 years that a draw against Bulgaria in Varna can be described as a moral win.

Bulgaria (0) 0
Hungary (0) 0

Bulgaria: Jordanov; Velichkov, Ivkov, Vasilev (Isaakidiss), Atacjov, Bonev, Kostov, Borisov (Minoev), Aleksandrov, Denev, Kurbanov (Sokolov).

Hungary: Mesterac; Torok, Nagy (J), Balint, Toth (J), Halmosi, Bene, Mucha, Toth (A), Pazakas (Nagy (L.), Matz.

Chico of Portugal tests England goalkeeper Ray Clemence.

Czechoslovakia 2 Poland 2

IN FIFTEEN previous meetings between the two countries the Czechs had a decided edge psychologically, having won 9 drawn 3 and lost 3. Significantly, however, and underlining once more the tremendous progress made by the Poles in recent years, the last Czech victory over Poland was in 1962, soon after the Czechs had appeared in the World Cup Final.

That game, staged in Bratislava, must have been one of the most disappointing international matches ever staged, a real bore which Czechoslovakia won 2-1. Since then the Poles have won twice at home and drawn in Prague (2-2) in 1970.

On the occasion of that last visit to Prague the Poles had earned themselves a 2-0 lead by the interval and history repeated itself this time before 15,000 at the Sparta stadium. Though still far below their World Cup best the Poles carried

WORLD SOCCER'S exclusive International Post-Mortem brings you reports, line-ups, goalscorers and highlights of the big games—compiled by ERIC BATTY and JACK ROLLIN

Dave Watson joins the England attack but Portugal hold out.

the game towards Ivo Viktor in the Czech goal at every opportunity.

Poland had three changes from their accepted team—Zmuda and Musial (who was badly injured in a car crash recently) in defence; Kasperczak in midfield being replaced by Wyrobek, Drzewiecki and Bula. For the Czechs, presumably in the hope of creating team spirit and building morale, the same XI that were beaten at Wembley were retained.

Czech fans and critics were generally pleased with their team's performance—on paper they finally earned a draw against the World's number three team—though in fact the Poles are going through a period of post World Cup blues.

Resigned

Polish left winger Robert Gadocha, apparently now resigned to the fact that he isn't going to join Bayern Munchen, put Poland ahead after half an hour. That goal was all that separated the two sides at the interval but eight minutes after the re-start Szarmach increased the lead to 2-0.

It is always difficult for spectators to know in such circumstances whether the Poles then became complacent or whether the Czechs staged a determined rally. Either way, from then on the game swung towards the Czechs and on the hour Jan Svehlik, reduced the arrears and with 17 minutes left Marian Masny hit a penalty low past the right hand of Tomaszewski to equalise.

Czechoslovakia (0) 2 (Svehlik, Masny)
Poland (1) 2 (Gadocha, Szarmach)

Czechoslovakia: Viktor; Pivarnik (Hrdy), Josef Capkovic, Ondrus, Vacatin, Bicovsky, Pekarik (Knapp), Gajdusek, Masny, Svehlik, Strazl.
Poland: Tomaszewski; Szymanowski, Gorgon, Wyrobek, Drzewiecki, Maszczyk, Deyna, Bula, Lato, Szarmach, Gadocha.

Turkey 0 Austria 1

WATCHED by 40,000 of their own fans, the Turks struggled without success against an Austrian team that has been transformed since the 7-0 thrashing they took from England little more than a year ago.

Playing defensively now with Wembley victim, goalkeeper Friedl Koncilia of Wacker Innsbruck locking sound behind a packed defence organised by Norbert Hof (Hof II) who has been converted to *libero* by his club Rapid, Austria managed a 1-0 win even without their scoring star Hans Krankl.

Released

In the absence of the Rapid striker it was VOEST's Josef Stering who got the vital goal after only four minutes and though Willy Kreuz (Feyenoord) and Kurt Jara (Valencia) were both released by their foreign clubs to play up with Stering, an early lead encouraged the Austrians to try and hang on.

Since that Wembley drubbing, Leopold Stastny the Czech-born manager, has improved his position—this was Austria's last game of 1974 and in the year they were unbeaten in six games, drawing with Brazil, Holland and Italy (before the World Cup) and this season beating Hungary (1-0), Wales (2-1) and now the Turks.

Turkey (0) 0
Austria (1) 1 (Stering)

Turkey: Yasin; Ismail, Alpaslan, Ziya, Zekeriya, Engin, Osman (Tezcan), Selcuk (Zafer), Buyuk Mehmet (Fuji Mehmet), Cemil, Metin.
Austria: Koncilia; Eigenstiller, Hof, Pajenk, Strauer, Hattenberger, Probarska, Gombasch, Stering (Hasil) Kreuz (Kogelberger), Jara.

Greece 3 Cyprus 1

ON THE Friday prior to the visit of West Germany, the Greeks had a run out at the Karaiskaiki stadium in Piraeus in what was really a trial game against a very harmless Cypriot team.

The Greeks major headache was how to fit in all their forward stars—Antoniadis, Papaioannou, Domazos, the PAOK star Georgios Koudas and the discovery of the year, Georgios Delikaris of Olympiakos.

Only 3,000 turned out to see the game and though the Greeks had things all their own way it was the opposition that scored first through Papadopoulos in the 22nd minute. Two goals in five minutes by Papaioannou (30) and Sarafis (35) put Greece in command.

A much changed Greek team played in the second half and if nothing else the team to meet West Germany was decided while a third goal was added to make the final scoreline more respectable two minutes from time—notched by Tersanidis.

● Continued on page 43

Focus on Partizan Belgrade by Jack Rollin

Poor form in Yugoslavia...

WING-HALF Zlatko Cajkovski, who captained Yugoslavia in the 1950 and 1954 World Cups, spent ten years as a player with Partizan Belgrade. Nowadays he is the trainer of FC Cologne in West Germany. And the draw for the third round of the UEFA Cup paired the two clubs. Such then are the oddities of football.

But the current Partizan side is a far different one from the team that "Tschik" Cajkovski left.

Founded in 1945 as the Army Sports Club and succeeding the pre-war Belgrade Sports Club, Partizan achieved a League and Cup double in the first normal season after the war.

They won the League again in 1949 and in three succesive seasons from 1961 to 1963. And their fifth honour came in 1965. Since their first Yugoslav Cup success they have won it three more times in 1952, 1954 and 1956.

Cajkovski had retired in 1955 and many of the other stars of his era had gone, too, including Stefan Bobek, scorer of 400 goals for Partizan and later to be the club's coach in the 1960s, also Branko Zebec who won a record 65 caps.

But in the 1965-66 season the team had a good run in the European Cup. They beat Nantes (France), Werder Bremen (West Germany) and then met Sparta Prague in the quarter-finals.

Display

In Czechoslovakia they crashed 4-1 and their prospects seemed poor indeed, but a fighting second leg display in which they scored four goals in 35 minutes helped them to overcome the deficit to win 5-0 and go through on a 6-4 aggregate, after one of the best comebacks seen in the Champions Cup.

For the semi-final with Manchester United they were able to recall striker Milan Galic from his national service stint and success put them into the final against Real Madrid who were seeking their sixth win in the competition.

Despite a goal by Velibor Vasovic they were beaten 2-1 but had become the first Eastern European team to reach the ultimate stage of the tournament.

Immediately, the team split up, most of them going abroad. Goalkeeper Milutin Soskic went to Cologne, left back Fahrudin Jusufi joined Frankfurt, Galic went to Standard Liege and Vasovic finished up with Ajax. Even Abdullah Gegic the coach left.

It is the same man who is currently in charge of the Turkish team Bursaspor, who have done well in this seasons Cup Winners Cup.

Since then it has been a slow process for the club. Vasovic returned as trainer but it did not work out. And though in the last two seasons Partizan have managed to finish fourth both times, the current term has been little more than a nightmare for them — domestically at least.

They have not recovered from a dreadful start in which they were knocked out of the cup by Second Division NK Zagreb 2-0 and began their League fixtures by crashing 4-1 to Zeljeznicar.

Now they are second from the bottom only thanks to a slightly better goal average than the last club. Coach Mirko Damjanovic, a former international with them, left after the second round of the UEFA Cup and the new trainer is Kaloperovic, another ex-Partizan favourite.

Best known of the current squad is Blajoje Paunovic, 28-year-old centre back and captain who was a permanent fixture in the national team for six years, winning 38 caps. He holds the defence together these days.

Bora Djordjevic of Partizan Belgrade.

Bora Djordjevic is the midfield general who organises most of the attacks while his brother Bosko plays on the left up front. Partizan also have a most promising right winger in Ilija Zavisic an Under-23 international. Momcilo Vukotic the top scorer is probably the best prospect at present though.

At 24 he has made a handful of appearances for the national team and is a centre forward. He was one of only two Partizan players to figure in his country's original party of 40 for the World Cup but did not get into the final 22.

The other in the list was Nenad Bjekovic (27), a more experienced international with over a dozen appearances. In his case he would almost certainly have made the finals, but for injury.

Military

Bjekovic who can play in midfield or attack was the club captain but after playing in the opening League games of the present season found himself called up for military service, too.

However, by far the best of a disappointing Yugoslavian season for the club has been their showing in Europe. In the first round of the UEFA Cup they were most convincing against Gornik Zabrze the Polish club. In the away leg in Silesia, Partizan found themselves two goals down with a little over twenty minutes remaining, but pulled themselves together with goals from Zavisic in the 72nd minute and a saver by Vukotic three minutes from the end.

They made no mistake in the home leg winning by three clear goals from Vukotic again, Bora Djordjevic and Todorovic.

Against the modest Irish League club Portadown, Partizan produced their best score of the season winning the home leg 5-0 (Kozic 2, Zavisic, Nikolic and Vukotic were the scorers). Away they drew 1-1 with a goal from Todorovic.

Vukotic kept up his record of scoring in each round with a goal nine minutes from the end of the first leg in Belgrade against Cologne to give Partizan a slender lead to take to Germany to face their old friend Cajkovski again.

ERIC BATTY says

GOOD TIME FOR REVIE

England team manager Don Revie—time for thought.

SOME men are born to greatness and others have lit thrust upon them" . . . and sitting in the car in a traffic jam before the England-Portugal game at Wembley it suddenly crossed my mind that Don Revie could not have taken over the England squad at a more opportune time.

He's had more than his share of success already of course with Leeds United but that's been earned the hard way . . . (a very subtle line that). If it hadn't been for the very unfriendly Portuguese, allegedly Britain's oldest ally, the Don would have been off to a flying start.

What's that, the innocent reader might well ask—assuming that readers' minds do not often think in the twisted, cynical way that mine has a habit of doing.

In this connection it might interest WORLD SOCCER readers who don't see the weekly paper *Soccer World*, published in Australia, to learn that they recently described me as . . . "provocative" . . . and . . . "England's most controversial soccer writer, the formidable Eric Batty."

Provocative? Controversial? Formidable?

I would personally settle for honest and one who looks at trees for what they are rather than being over-awed by forests in the shape of 3-0 wins over mediocre Czechoslovakia and further back a 7-0 win over Austria. The 1-1 draw with Poland and the 0-0 fiasco against Portugal are what should stand out as landmarks along with the 1-3 defeat at Wembley in 1972 against West Germany . . . and of course my old friends Bozsik, Puskas, Hidegkuti and Koesis, 21 years ago.

Knighted

Eight years ago when England had the *World Cup* "thrust upon them" Alf Ramsey was similarly knighted and a couple of the players also received medals.

The way things are shaping now in Britain it seems to me that success of any kind is going to be hailed as a national triumph and even after the Portugal game in which England were diabolical it still seems to me quite on the cards that England can win the 1976 European championship.

Though it may be easier to write about it, compared with doing it in Nicosia, Lisbon and Bratislava, there is no valid reason why England should not win all three of these games if they follow the current trend in World football and employ deep defensive tactics allied to quick counter attacks. Put in its simplest terms, what England have to do to the Portuguese and the Czechs is what Portugal did to them—only do it a bit better and sneak a goal or two.

With the right players and tactics as described briefly above England will, of course, sicken a few thousand football fans in Portugal and Czechoslovakia who thought they were being invited to a game of football but that's the way the world is today . . . uncompromising and business-like. Results come first (and last too) and never mind if the public doesn't like it.

So, if England play it right, keeping it very tight at the back and get a bit of luck when they get down the other end there is no valid reason why they should not qualify for the quarter finals.

Hosts

Assuming things go roughly as outlined and remembering that in 1972 UEFA were all set to stage the semi finals and final of the European championship in England, there is no reason why England should not play hosts in this competition a year next June.

The way things are shaping with West Germany apparently unable to find an adequate replacement for Gerd Muller and UEFA having very kindly placed Holland, Italy and Poland in the same qualifying group there isn't really much to be found in the way of opposition right now.

On paper it is always conceivable that Hennes Weisweiler might find another player like Gunter Netzer 'fur Deutchland' aber . . . on the other hand there is probably only Holland who would pose a real threat.

If someone could be found to do the job of sorting out Cruyff and Neeskens, we would be all set for another English triumph.

"Yes", you might say, "England don't deserve to qualify the way they played against Portugal" . . . and I would agree wholeheartedly, but there's a great deal of difference between what you earn and what you get these days.

Tactics

Defensive tactics, work-rate and kicking opposing stars have worked wonders for teams all around the world. Why should it not happen here in 1976? Remember, too, that referees can usually be relied upon to do their best for the home teams and it all clicks into place.

Just then the traffic lights changed and we started to move again but quite seriously I would advise the betting men amongst you to see what odds you can get on England being European champions in 1976.

ARTHUR ROTMIL reveals an i

ENGLAND PL MORE MATCH THAN THE RE

THE much publicised club v. country controversy is as old as international football itself. Practically every national manager in nearly every country has at one time or another complained about the lack of co-operation from clubs which put their own interests first. The most frequent lament concerns the inadequate preparation of the national squad and specifically the insufficient number of games allocated per season to the national team.

This particular issue has often been raised by the national managers of England, who, without exception, appeared totally unaware of this fact: ENGLAND PLAY MORE INTERNATIONALS THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN EUROPE.

From the table which is reproduced here it will be seen that in the five-year period covering 1969 till 1973, only Russia played three games more than England, but . . . this year the Soviets have only played four internationals, whilst England have already completed a programme of ten matches!

Mike Channon in the thick of things for England in the 0-0 draw against Portugal.

Support

From the statistics it appears that in a number of European countries there is only a limited support for the interests of the national team. In fact, several national sides have only achieved this number of fixtures because they were committed to take part in the European Championship, or World Cup qualifying competitions.

A detailed analysis shows for example that while England have played 51 internationals between 1969 and 1973, Spain and Portugal played only 28, Holland 27 and Belgium 26.

I have specifically selected these countries to show how powerful professional clubs there have managed to exercise their influence on the national Football Federation. Since the advent of the European Cup competitions top clubs in Spain, like Real Madrid and Barcelona, or in Portugal, like Benfica and Sporting Lisbon, have consistently blocked the efforts of those responsible for the national side.

These clubs grew rich on the lucrative international tournaments, the players looked forward to extravagant rewards and even the fans became more interested in success at club level (most of them being club members themselves!), much to the detriment of the national representation.

It must also be remembered that in those days the top players in Spain were foreign stars who drew the crowds and not the home bred talent in the national team. This tradition still persists and thus when Portugal played England at Wembley in a European Championship match recently, it was only their third international this year. And in 1970, for instance, Portugal played only two games.

A similar story concerns Holland and to a lesser extent Belgium. Last year Belgium played just three matches. The rivalry between the giants of Dutch football Ajax Amsterdam and Feyenoord Rotterdam has frequently produced such friction, that the players from Amsterdam and Rotterdam even refused to play together in the national side. There have even been occasions in the past, when either Ajax or Feyenoord simply waited for the slightest provocation from the KNVB (FA) to withdraw their players from the national squad.

Even before the World Cup finals the Dutch national side suffered a number of withdrawals which were not entirely due to serious injury. Goalkeepr Van Beveren (PSV Eindhoven) was supposed to have been indisposed, but the Ajax stars Barry Hulshoff and Gerry Muhren asked to be omitted because they claimed to be tired after a long season! Hardly a patriotic attitude, but one which is becoming common among professional footballers.

Tactics

That Holland nevertheless reached the final of the World Cup is ample proof not only that they have fine players, but also that it is not really necessary to play a large number of internationals by way of preparation. In countries like England, who play more internationals than anybody else and whose League programme allows the top players to sustain their competitive rhythm throughout the season, it should not be necessary to arrange lengthy preparations of the national side.

interesting statistic...

AY ES ST!

Number of internationals played in a five-year period

Country / Year	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	Total
Russia	9	12	9	15	10	55
ENGLAND	**11**	**12**	**9**	**7**	**12**	**51**
Sweden	12	10	9	8	11	50
Bulgaria	7	12	9	8	13	49
Poland	9	8	7	10	14	48
East Germany	9	5	10	9	14	47
West Germany	7	14	9	7	10	47
Hungary	9	7	10	13	6	45
Yugoslavia	6	9	8	15	6	44
Denmark	12	6	7	10	7	42
Norway	11	6	8	7	8	40
Rumania	7	11	7	9	6	40
Scotland	8	4	10	9	9	40
Italy	6	11	6	8	8	39
Czechoslovakia	6	10	7	9	6	38
Greece	10	6	9	5	5	35
Austria	6	7	7	7	7	34
France	5	8	8	6	6	33
Northern Ireland	5	4	7	5	8	29
Wales	7	4	8	4	6	29
Switzerland	6	6	6	5	6	29
Spain	6	5	6	6	5	28
Finland	8	2	7	6	5	28
Portugal	6	2	5	10	5	28
Holland	6	4	5	5	7	27
Belgium	4	6	5	8	3	26
Republic of Ireland	7	5	3	5	5	25
Turkey	8	2	6	3	6	25
Luxembourg	6	4	4	4	5	23
Iceland	4	3	2	4	6	19
Cyprus	4	2	6	3	3	18
Malta	1	3	5	4	1	14
Albania	–	2	4	2	4	12

Much discussion aroused from the fact that the Czechs had much longer to prepare than England before their recent European Championship clash in October. But actually, before they met England at Wembley, the Czechs had played seven internationals this year, while England had played eight. The fact that in May/June England played seven matches in the space of 25 days seemed to have escaped general notice.

Now, I ask you, how many preparatory games do these highly trained and experienced professionals need, to play just one international? I do not agree with everything Mr. Bob Lord, the vice-president of the Football League and chairman of Burnley says, but I am wholeheartedly in agreement with him when he observes: "Top footballers should not need all this preparation and drilling." And quite clearly those who claim that on the Continent every national team receives priority, are way off the mark, with such a generalisation.

Interests

It is true, that in some Eastern European countries the interests of the national representation are often put first. But on the other hand, Yugoslavia, for instance, have lost three full national sides through their leading players emigrating to become professionals in Western Europe.

In addition, the Yugoslav authorities insist on their footballers catching up on the military service often in the middle of their sporting careers. And they are rarely released for international duty!

Other countries, like Austria and even West Germany, have also been handicapped by some of their most talented players migrating to other lands and not always being available for the national side. And Denmark like Sweden have for years been losing players wholesale to other professional clubs all over Europe.

It is also worth noting that in no fewer than 16 European countries there is a three-month winter break which means practically a new start for competitive football. This interruption affects of course greatly the form of the international stars and makes the task of the national managers that much tougher.

But if the modest Belgians can reach third place in the European Championship in 1972, having played only half the number of games England had completed in the same period, and if the Dutch managed to fight their way into a World Cup final, also on half the number of matches recorded by England, then it is obvious that all this talk about lack of preparation, not enough international games to develop team work and understanding, etc., is just propaganda to insure against a setback and to prepare excuses in case of failure.

In any case, with the amount of football played these days at national as well as international level, very few international sides need more than three days to prepare their tactics.

The officials of the Football League are often accused of obstructing the work of the national manager by their refusal to postpone fixtures to accommodate the England team. After reading these statistics they may well reply to future criticism with the revelation that England already play more often than any other country in Europe!

Martin Dobson is beaten to the ball by Czechoslovakia goalkeeper Ivo Viktor in the European Championship match at Wembley which England won 3-0.

Van Der Kuylen leads Europe's top marksmen

WILLY VAN DER KUYLEN, the leading scorer in Europe at present, recently scored his 200th competitive goal in Holland. The PSV Eindhoven midfield player who likes to come through to score his goals, is Europe's ace marksman this season with 17 goals.

Last season he was the leading scorer in Holland with 27 goals and seems likely to beat this figure during 1974-75.

Van der Kuylen is 28 and was recalled to the national team against Italy after an absence of four years.

Suspended

BAYERN MUNICH'S troubles seem no nearer ending. They are 14th in the Bundesliga, have watched crowds slump to 12,000 and given trainer Udo Lattek notice to quit at the end of the season.

Now World Cup star Uli Hoeness has been suspended because he went on an autograph-signing tour of West Germany when he said he was injured and could not play.

Now Bayern are in danger of creating a record by winning a unique double — European Cup and relegation!

Resigned

BULGARIA have appointed a new national team manager in Stojan Ormandjiev, 54-year-old former international who has succeeded Christo Mladenov who resigned recently.

Ormandjiev is an experienced coach who has a tough task before him in selecting a side which will be able to lift itself above the low level into which Bulgarian football has sunk.

His first task was to select a squad of 22 for the European Championship match with Greece and many of the old favourites of yesterday were axed. However, some more familiar names like Bonev, Denev, Ivkov, Aladjov and Jordanov were still there.

Pre-war

DIMITRIOUS PAPAIOANNOU, the 33-year-old centre-forward of AEK Athens recently established a record number of appearances for Greece when he won his 46th cap against West Germany.

Another player who equalled his country's record in this respect was Jose Iribar, the Spanish goalkeeper, who was able to play in his 46th match against Scotland to draw level with the legendary Ricardo Zamora who reached this figure in pre-war days and was also a goalkeeper.

OLYMPIAKOS, of Greece, are the only 100 per cent team left in Europe. After eight league matches they are top of the Greek First Division and seemingly on the way to retaining their championship.

They have had only one competitive defeat this season and that was in the European Cup when they lost the away leg in Belgium 5-1 to Anderlecht. But even then in the return game they managed to reduce the deficit to one goal when they were successful by 3-0.

Goalless

PORTO have edged ahead in the Portuguese League after 12 matches by beating Farense 2-0 as Benfica dropped a point in a goalless draw with Oriental.

If Porto succeed in pulling off the title it will be for the first time in a decade and a half. In fact, they are one of only four Portuguese clubs who have ever won the championship. Benfica, Sporting and Belenenses are the other three.

Prolific

PETAR JEKOV, the most prolific goalscorer in the history of Bulgarian football, has retired.

Only 30 years of age centre-forward Jekov, who won the Golden Ball award as Europe's leading scorer in 1969 and has been runner-up and third since then, has decided to call it a day because of increasing weight and fitness problems.

Jekov played in the 1966 and 1970 World Cups and was captain of the 1968 Olympic team, too. In all he scored more than 300 goals for two clubs, lately CSKA Sofia, having started his career with Beroe Stara Zagora.

Uli Hoeness of Bayern Munich.

Dutch in a strong position after victory

HOLLAND'S useful 3-1 success over Italy has at least put them in a strong position against this particular opposition in the European Championship — it just leaves Poland to worry about.

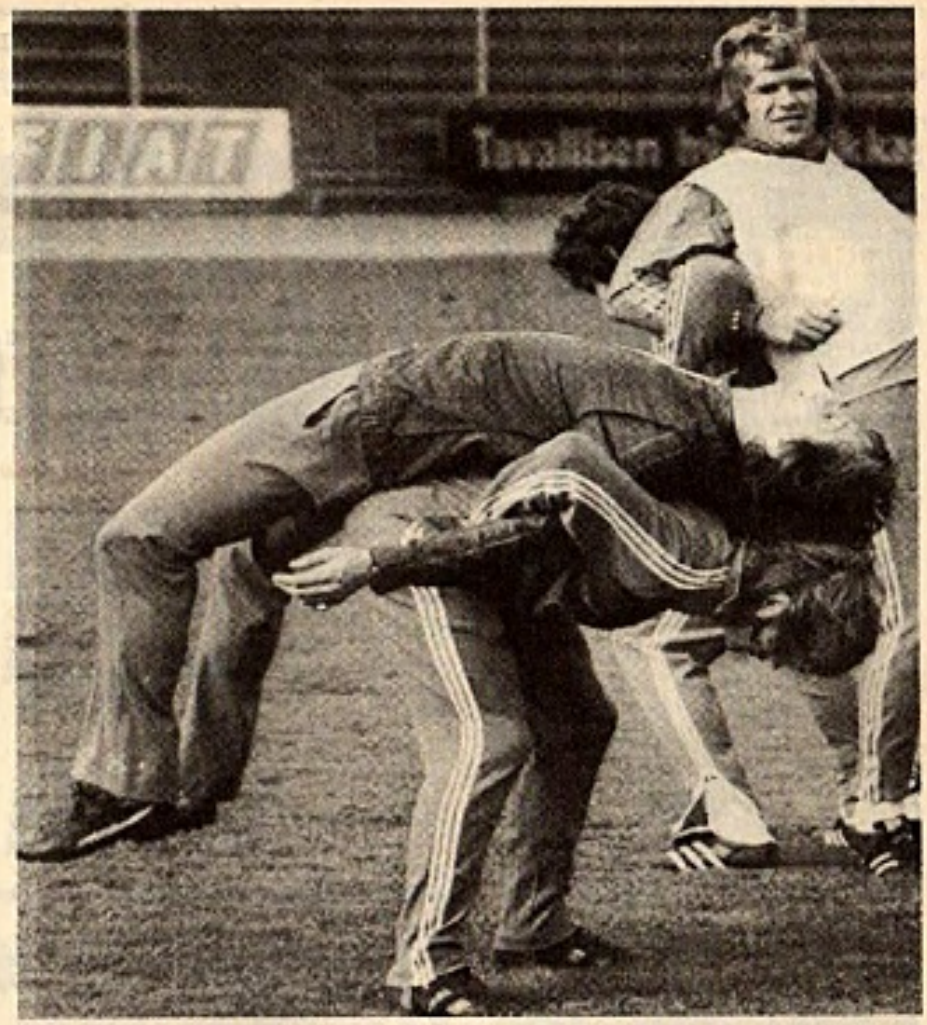
Even so the Italians shocked them with a goal in five minutes through Roberto Boninsegna and it seemed that the visitors excellent record against the Dutch would continue. In four previous meetings they had won once and drawn the other three. However Robby Rensenbrink brought the scores level before half-time and a brace from Johan Cruyff settled the issue afterwards. Cruyff's second was his 31st goal in 38 matches though in his last 27 games he has got 26.

An interesting selection for Holland was the return to international duty of Willy Van der Kuylen the in-form PSV Eindhoven player, currently the league's top marksman and making his 14th appearance in the national side but his first since October 1970. At half-time the Dutch also introduced Willy Van Der Kerkhof one of the twins from PSV for his second appearance. His previous had also been as substitute against Rumania before the World Cup.

In the race for the League title leaders PSV did their already good prospects an even better turn by beating De Graafschap 3-0 while Ajax slumped by the same score away to AZ 67 in Alkmaar.

Ajax have already received a blow in Europe with the suspension for three matches of Johnny Rep after being sent off in the second leg of the UEFA Cup tie with Antwerp. And they had a 1-0 defeat in the third round first leg in Turin against Juventus.

Meanwhile FC Amsterdam have been reserving their best performances for their UEFA Cup matches, too, taking a more than useful three goal lead in the first leg against Fortuna Dusseldorf — yet they still struggle in the lower half of the Dutch table.



Johan Cruyff and Theo de Jong in training for Holland.

ITALY LOSE

FURTHER changes from the Italian team beaten by Yugoslavia provided no basis for extended confidence against Holland. After taking an early lead through Roberto Boninsegna, the Italians finished well beaten losing 3-1.

Boninsegna seems at least to be justifying his recall to the side despite his 31 years, because it was he who was on the mark in the friendly with Bayern Munich which was used as a training match for the international. In this game Pietro Anastasi missed a penalty.

Against Holland newcomer from Napoli Andrea Orlandini (26) did a useful marking job on Cruyff until the Barcelona striker eluded him a couple of times and that was enough for the great Johan . . .

Youngsters like Roggi, Rocca and Antognoni showed some promise but the team is now a mixture of the reasonably promising but inexperienced and the tried and tested; a blend which shows no present sign of getting Italy out of its post-World Cup decline.

In fact, the defence which was virtually the entire basis of the team is now looking quite the least effective department.

In the absence of the injured Giacinto Facchetti, the Italians were captained by Dino Zoff, who alone seems not to have been affected by the disintegration around him, which is quite surprising in view of the fact that he went 1,144 minutes without conceding a goal until the match in the World Cup with Haiti.

Already there are murmurings against team selector Fulvio Bernadini, a man in his late 60s who could well become a casualty of the need for the national team to find a winning combination before the reappearance of the European Championship programme in the New Year.

In the championship Napoli are still unbeaten, but Juventus remain top of the First Division still.

European news review—EAST GERMANY... CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Magdeburg and Zeiss are ahead

Jan Mesny of Czechoslovakia.

INTERNATIONAL matches and preparations for them have limited league play in East Germany recently but there has been enough activity to break the deadlock (temporarily at least) at the top of the First Division where FC Carl Zeiss Jena and the reigning champions 1st FC Magdeburg have been separated only by goal average week after week

In the tenth round Zeiss dropped a point while without their top striker Eberhard Vogel (unfit), Norbert Schumann (suspended after three bookings).

Zeiss drew 0-0 but this was enough to put them clear at the top for Magdeburg (without Jurgen Pommerenke) scored first through Jurgen Sparwasser away to Stahl Riesa but were soundly beaten 3-1 at the end.

That same weekend Dynamo Dresden closed the gap still further by beating Rott Weiss Erfurt 1-0 — a header from Hans-Jurgen Kreische almost on the hour.

But it was in Aue where the spectators were treated to a rare spactacle: eight goals. Sachsenring Zwickau were Wismut's guests with only goalkeeper Jurgen Croy well known, but by the interval Croy and his colleagues were 3-1 up away.

In the second-half Wismut came back with a bang, putting four goals past Croy in 28 minutes to win 5-3.

After that things returned to normal with the top teams both winning. Magdeburg were pushed to win 1-0 at home to Vorwarts Frankfurt while Zeiss, at home to Dynamo Dresden, won handsomely by 3-1 with centre-forward Peter Ducke getting two.

One-point

That defeat seems to have ended the hopes of the Dresden club and now the challengers to the two leaders (Zeiss having a one-point lead) are Chemie Halle, promoted last summer and Stahl Riesa, promoted a year earlier. They just managed to avoid relegation last season.

Vorwarts Stralsund came up with Chemie but by contrast are stuck at the bottom and look likely to go back down.

Hansa Rostock could go, too, and surprisingly, Lokomotive Leipzig — one of the top teams in recent years — and Vorwarts Frankfurt (ex-Berlin), the Army team, are equally threatened.

JABLONEC-SURPRISE TEAM

LIAZ JABLONEC continue to be the surprise team of the season in Czechoslovakia, occupying fifth place in the table even though they have not scored in their six away matches.

At home Jablonec are formidable, however, pulling in the second best First Division crowd (8,000) at the 14th hurdle — a 1-0 win over Nitra.

Their previous home match was the more spectacular — the visit of current champions Slovan Bratislava.

A crowd of 15,722 packed into the tiny ground to see Jablonec go ahead after 18 minutes. Slovan left-winger Jan Capkovic equalised after half an hour.

Twelve minutes into the second half Jablonec got what proved to be the 2-1 winner. Both the home side's goals were scored by Rudolf Svoboda.

Someone had to pay for Slovan's defeat and in the next round it was Zilina that caught it. An average team — won four, drawn four, lost four, before the trip to Tehelny Pole — Zilina were mercilessly hammered by 8-1.

Jan Capkovic got four goals, Juraj Novotny got two and Anton Ondrus and Jan Svehlik the others.

Next time out Slovan managed what most Czech teams cannot do — they won away, beating Trinec 3-2. Stopper Ondrus put through his own goal after Novotny had given Slovan an early lead, but later Ondrus got one back in the right net and Jan Capkovic hit the clincher.

Dukla fell out of the running with a run that saw only one goal in three games. At home to Teplica (0-0) only 1,600 turned out in Prague before Dukla went to Slovakia for a 2-1 defeat at Trnava where Spartak's star striker Jaroslav Masrna now seems fully fit again. He got both goals.

For Dukla there followed another 0-0 draw at home to Brno and another poor gate — 1,800.

VSS Kosice have been one of Slovan's closest challengers but like Jablonec they are only doing it at home. Away they have only one point from seven games.

At home to Slavia they won handsomely 6-2 (Peter Galis and Jan Strausz each scoring three times. Dukla's decline began with the injury to centre-forward Zdenek Nehoda and the top scorers are all Slovaks: Galis 12; Strausz, Ladislav Petras (Inter) and Jan Capkovic ten each, followed by Marian Masny eight, and Juraj Novotny (both Slovan) who have seven.

European news review—POLAND... AUSTRIA

Polish team manager Kazimierz Gorski.

RUCH CHORZOW TOP AT HALF-WAY MARK

AT the half-way mark in the league championship in Poland Ruch Chorzow are clearly the top team and short of a total collapse in the spring, appear to be near certainties to keep the championship trophy they won last year.

They will, however, have to give back the FA Cup which they won in August (after the World Cup) for they went out early, presumably to concentrate on the league and European Cup.

By contrast the reserve team of ROW Rybnik — the first team having only three league wins to their credit out of 15 games so far — have got through to their quarter-finals of the Cup where they are at home to Lech Poznan.

Penalties

In the eighth final round ROW Reserves beat First Division Polonia Bytom 1-0 while the Rybnik 1st XI were beaten 2-1 away to Second Division Stal Rzeszow.

Wisla Krakow only just got through winning 4-3 on penalties after being held to 0-0 by GKS Katowice, another Division II side.

Stal Mielec had their hands full away to unknown Start Lodz, winning by only 1-0 (Grzegorz Lato) the goal scored in the 78th minute.

Ruch's recent record is: played four, won four. Jan Benigier shot four in a 6-0 win over Arka Gdynia; Joachim Marx got the vital goal in a tight 1-0 home win over Zablebie Sosnowiec and in mid-week Ruch won their game in hand 4-0 against GKS Tychy (Marx two after Benigier had scored first).

Chance

Finally Ruch beat Gwardia 3-1 in Warsaw Bronislaw Bula getting two.

Stal Mielec, who now appears to be the only other team in with a chance, blotted their copy book when beaten 0-1 at home by Zaglebie Sosnowiec. After that Stal won 2-0 away to Tychy (Lato and Domarski the scorers) and only just prevented ROW Rybnik earning their eighth draw in 15 games with a goal by Domarski, three minutes from the end.

Won 13, drawn 1, lost 1, is the Ruch record — quite exceptional. Stal's 22 points from 15 games would make them leaders in most leagues but Ruch have the artillery up front.

Joachim Marx has 12 league goals, followed by Jan Benigier on ten. Both play for Ruch and their rivals also on ten are Roman Jakobczak (Lech) and Kazimierz Kmiecik (Wisla).

Same opponents in successive matches

IN recent weeks all the leading contenders for the title in Austria have been pitched against each other—Rapid, VOEST Linz, Swarowski Wacker Innsbruck and Admira-Wacker — and emphasising this even more is the new policy of playing each opponent in successive games at home and away.

Wacker Innsbruck, who were pipped on the post for the title last June by SC Rapids, took their revenge in a 2-0 home win — Rapid's second defeat in 11 games.

On the same day in Linz the local derby between VOEST and ASK was won 2-0 by VOEST, pushing them up towards the top and ASK Line into serious relegation danger.

Next time out Rapid were at home to Innsbruck and without the services of Norbert Hof (injured). The game ended 1-1 but it was a very rough affair with the referee showing the yellow card six times — Rapid's share was four including one for Gustl Starek. This was his fifth and meant an automatic suspension for one game — away to VOEST.

This was a battle between the top two, Rapid the leaders staying on top even after a 2-1 defeat . . . both goals scored by VOEST's international striker, Josef Stering. In the return game Rapid won 2-1 (Hans Krankl scoring twice for Rapid).

Around this time FK Austria were hammering Admira-Wacker 6-1, drawing away to Austria Salzbourg 1-1 with a last-second equaliser from their Uruguayan left-winger Morales and then beating Austria Salzbourg 4-0.

Suspended

The most unusual event, however, cropped up in the Admira-Wacker v Rapid local derby with Admira boss Ernst Ocwirk blundering by allowing full-back Heinrich Strasser to play while suspended. Admira beat Rapid 2-1 but after an appeal to the OFB by Rapid, which was upheld, the result was modified to give Rapid a 3-0 win.

This enabled Rapid to keep their noses in front, but playing everyone four times means that the contenders for the title have to clash again at home and away, and anything can happen.

Brian Glanville looks at the reason

SMITH PLAYE

WHILE Don Revie, inevitably, has been drawing all the limelight, the full dazzling coruscation of publicity, it has gone almost unremarked that another new British international manager, also an Englishman, has made a most impressive beginning.

When Mike Smith, a tall, quiet balding man in his late 30s, was appointed team manager of Wales, I confess I was surprised and none too optimistic. In the first place, he had no background at all as a player in professional football; he had been no more than a good amateur, playing for the Corinthian Casuals.

In the second, he was not even a Welshman, but an Englishman; and surely the whole imposing tradition of Welsh football, of those teams that had won the British Championship in the 1930s and fared splendidly in the 1958 World Cup, had been built on *hwyl*, spirit transforming what might have seemed inadequate matter?

When Smith picked a team, for the first match, which brought in a 33-year-old debutant in the Wrexham inside-forward, the little, blond Arfon Griffiths, and left out the likes of Villars of Cardiff and Smallman of Wrexham, I was still less convinced. Smith himself, when one met him, could scarcely have been more of a contrast with all one had heard of the almost mythical Ted Robbins, the exuberant Secretary of the Welsh FA who drew teams out of hats like a conjurer and would tell a new player: "Get your feet under the table! I'll be your Daddy!"

You could scarcely imagine the grave and studious Smith saying anything so blatantly emotive. He had been, for several years, Chief Coach in Wales, but that is always something of a two-edged qualification. There are, as we know, coaches and coaches. The Coaching Revolution inaugurated by Walter Winterbottom was very badly needed and has certainly benefited British football, but there have always been areas where it has degenerated into a rigid orthodoxy, a means of self-promotion and aggrandisement, theory obscuring practice in a cloud of jargon.

Wales lost in Austria, 2-1, and were overrun in the end, but Griffiths got his goal, and the team did not play badly. Besides, it was an immensely hard beginning for a new manager to make: an immediate European Championship match, and an away one at that.

Next: Hungary, again, no easy undertaking. Indeed, Ferencvaros, several of whose players were in the Hungarian party, had only just come to Ninian Park, where the game was to be played, and won 4-1. Mike Smith recalled Mike England who, an intelligent and greatly experienced pro, eulogises his work, and beat Hungary out of sight, Griffiths scoring another goal.

Boredom

What impressed England as much as anything was the way Smith had — as Ramsey did for England — carefully guarded against that boredom which is perhaps the greatest enemy of international footballers, planning entertainments and diversions for the team.

His tactics, too, were very sound; throwing a defender forward into the midfield when it was clear that Hungary would play with only a couple of strikers.

For Mike Smith to overcome all his apparent handicaps so swiftly is a tribute to his ability. He has clearly won the confidence of his players, and such little stratagems as pinning a photograph of each man's direct opponent to the wall, before the Luxemburg match at Swansea, shows a lively imagination.

Gambler

Arfon Griffiths got another goal in that match, and showed that Smith is also a bold and intelligent gambler. I used to admire Griffiths in his Arsenal days; if I am not mistaken, it was a broken leg which set back his career, and it is good to see him finishing in such splendour.

Age, of course, is quite a relative matter. In Italy, Jose Altafini, now 36, is having one of the best seasons he has had since he arrived from the Brazilian World Cup team at Milan, in 1958. Age certainly doesn't wither this extraordinary centre-forward, as boyish, though somewhat less hirsute, now as when I recall him in Gothenburg, over 16 years ago.

He scored twice in each of the UEFA Cup matches against Hibernian, interspersing these with a volley of goals in the League. He announced that he would be delighted to play just half a

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behind a Welsh revival

H WINS HIS ERS ACROSS

game for Italy, for whom he played without much success, on a double-passport qualification, in the Chilean World Cup of 1962.

Answer

This brought a dusty answer from the 68-year-old Fulvio Bernardini; but I think he was wrong. I really do believe that Altafini, in his present form and with his immense experience, might have done a great deal for Italy, in Holland.

Not that they lost badly, I understand, and not from Italian sources, that they could well have been 2-0 ahead, Boninsegna having given them the lead, then deserving a penalty when Rijsbergen chopped him down. One of Cruyff's goals, moreover, seemed blatantly offside. But given the weakness of Rijsbergen in the air, the fact that the Dutch defence is not remotely the equal of its attack, I do feel that Altafini, might have accomplished something in Rotterdam.

Factor

Incidentally, he was playing against Wales for Brazil at Gothenburg in the World Cup quarter-final of 1958, a match I saw, and one which could well have had a different ending, had John Charles only been fit to play; for a most inviting centre came high across the Brazilian box in the first minutes of that game.

Wales played heroically well, succumbing only 1-0 to a deflected shot by Pele, who still calls that his most important goal. The inspiring captaincy of Dave Bowen, Mike Smith's predecessor as the Welsh team manager, from left-half was a major factor in his country's fine display. Bowen, a much more extrovert character than Smith, worked in the way of Robbins, rather than that of his successor; but so long as a manager succeeds, his methods (if honest!) must be secondary.

Don Revie now has a protracted breathing spell before England play again; and even that next match, away to Cyprus on February 5, is problematical. In the meantime, I hope there is

Wales centre half Mike England in action for Spurs against Kenny Burns of Birmingham.

some way in which he can abandon the depressing new kit which the team is now obliged to wear. Aesthetically, it is deplorable, historically it has no justification. Even superstitiously — and there can be no manager more superstitious than Revie, by his own admission — there is nothing to be said for it.

If it "won" against the Czechs, it could only and disastrously, "draw" against the Portuguese . . . the sponsors of this kit, who have apparently paid large sums of money to the Football Association for the privilege of inflicting these colours on the community, might wonder whether all publicity is good; there have been several adverse comments already in print, nor have I heard a good word said for the colours.

As for the team itself, there is clearly a hard ride ahead. Should Revie return to the "fantasists", such as Marsh and Bowles, whose talent is unquestioned, but whose temperament for international football is uncertain? At least, when he plays away to Portugal and Czechoslovakia next year, there will be much more space for his forwards.

Meanwhile, the key to the group may well be the match between the Czechs and the Portuguese, next April 30. A win for the Czechs would probably suit England best, but at this distance, it looks all over another 0-0 draw; though those Czech midfield players do shoot well, and the team will surely have learned something to their advantage about the Portuguese offside trap which so thoroughly baffled our naive fellows.

Portugal do 'Italian' job

says Eric Batty

HAVING written at some length in last month's World Soccer about the new England under Don Revie, I feel he needs more time and we need to see more games before decisions about him and his methods take on a more solid shape.

Yet, having said this, it is difficult following the pathetic showing by England against Portugal, to resist the temptation to re-emphasise one of the points I made last month — namely that it is the English game that is on trial as much as anything else.

This could seldom have shown up more — perhaps the 3-6 and 1-7 defeats against Hungary in 1953 and 1954 were more emphatic — but whatever the England team does is a reflection of the broadly based game as a whole at that particular time.

After Revie's second game I feel a look at the Portuguese rather than the English will be more illuminating and there is much to learn from them — not least the plain fact that modern soccer had become so sophisticated and well-organised as far as defence is concerned, that almost anyone could do what Portugal did to England.

Many critics failed completely to understand the nature of the Czech team that held England to 0-0 for much of the previous game, writing that the Czechs had a defensive formation when they clearly did not. By comparison with the Portuguese, the Czechs were far from negative and while they failed, they did at least try to play something like real football.

Barriers

Portugal on the other hand did an *Italian* job, with their manager Jose Maria Pedroto realistically recognising that his team had no hope of winning at Wembley and designing a string of technical barriers that England had to cross.

That England failed to score is an indictment of English football but don't let us overlook what the Portuguese achieved. They came to Wembley looking for a 0-0 draw — and got it. England went looking for a win and not only failed, but failed so miserably, that when it was all over a large section of the Wembley crowd remained behind to chant: "What a load of rubbish".

Portugal succeeded in gaining their objective and England failed to gain theirs. Summing it all up one can only say that it was at least a moral victory for Portugal. They got what they wanted.

Portugal goalkeeper Damas.

One thing that surprised me was the morale of the Portuguese who in view of their players' lack of international experience should in theory have been trembling in their shoes. In fact many of the players probably were if the truth were known, but as the game began to unfold, with several of the Portuguese emerging as heroes and England showing that they didn't know how to solve the series of problems Pedroto posed to them, the visitors began to grow in confidence. At the end it was difficult to escape the feeling that Damas, Humberto and Alhinho could have gone on denying England a goal for another fortnight.

Goalkeeper Damas did well enough all in fact that was asked of him though that was not too much thanks to the twin stoppers Humberto and Alhinho This pair were magnificent, organising an off-side trap that England players repeatedly fell into; winning almost everything in the air — which is vital when playing against a side like England who put the ball in the air far more than they should — and also displaying a great deal of intelligence in both their covering and their distribution. Humberto and Alhinho were the real heroes of the evening.

In terms of skill I thought that Vitor Martins and Octavio were the pick of the two sides, always busy, always looking and thinking, supporting the man with the ball and very rarely, but often enough, slipping through passes deep into the England defence.

Of course, the Portuguese effort was 95 per cent negative. In fact they passed the ball back to goalkeeper Damas so often that I formed the impression that I had never before seen a game in which both teams were playing in the same direction. Pedroto's plan was devastatingly simple: get the ball and keep it as long as possible, pushing the ball around short in triangles without trying too seriously to go forward and then, if anyone found himself under too much pressure, play it back to the goalkeeper and start playing keep-ball again from there.

Surprised

The visitors achieved their limited aims so easily that even I, a hardened critic of the England style of play, was genuinely surprised at how easy it was to baffle the England players, how simple it was to make them chase around after the ball.

It all began as usual with constant England pressure but slowly the Portuguese began to play. As they discovered they could "keep the ball" they began to believe and as the game progressed the confidence began to drain away from England until finally they were left in a shambles.

Their high balls down the middle and long high crosses were headed away by Humberto and his mate; England players in two's and three's broke forward looking for a pass and then suddenly realising what they had done (run offside) began to walk back and look around nervously, often appearing to be afraid to look for a pass in case they were caught offside.

It was all so easy for Portugal who had all the heroes that were on view — and this believe it or not was from a team that had not won a game for two and a half years!

Beckenbauer says it... 'We were bad'

News from West Germany by Arthur Rotmil

WEST GERMANY'S captain, Franz Beckenbauer, who is not normally given to exaggeration, summed it all up ruefully by saying: "I cannot remember such a bad display from our national team as the one we gave today." This was the somewhat startling postscript to the 2-2 draw against Greece, with which the Germans opened their defence of the European Championship title.

From the side which won the World Cup in July only six men were on duty, namely Maier, Vogts, Schwarzenbeck, Beckenbauer, Hoeness and Hölzenbein. Of the others, Müller, Grabowski and Overath, as already reported, no longer wish to be selected to represent their country, Breitner, after his departure to Real Madrid was not considered either, whilst Bonhof was suspended.

National manager, Helmut Schön, concealed his disappointment by counting the away points as a positive gain, but even he was hard put to find something cheerful to say about this frankly uninspiring performance. The Greeks showed superior skill, they fought like tigers and with a little more luck would have won. Before a crowd of only 20,000 at the Karaiskaki stadium near Athens it soon became evident that the Germans were in for a tough time.

Approach

They simply had no one with the delicate touch of Domasos and Elefterakis, who took control in midfield and fed their strikers with a steady stream of accurate passes. However, their approach work was often wasted, for with any steadiness in front of goal the Greeks must have rattled up a score to put the issue beyond any doubt.

As it happened, the Germans twice came from behind: the goal by Delikaris was equalised by Cullman, and following the 2-1 lead through Eleftherakis and with only six minutes left, Wimmer headed in a centre from Hölzenbein to snatch the rather fortunate draw. The Germans only had two men who reached anywhere near normal form: Bertie Vogts and Franz Beckenbauer; the rest were a disappointment.

But after the tempers had cooled, some experts pointed to a parallel of four years ago. The West Germans started their European Championship campaign with a dismal 1-1 draw against Turkey at home! Yet, they went on to win the European title.

Nevertheless, it is clear that this present German side is far, far removed from the team which triumphed in the final in Brussels in 1972 to claim Europe's crown and is just unrecognisable from the 11 which won the World Cup five months ago.

The absence of Netzer was an obvious handicap, but now without Müller, Overath, Grabowski and Breitner, the backbone of that fine team seems to be missing. The meeting with Greece was incidentally West Germany's 200th post-war international. Statistics show that Helmut Schön has now overtaken his great predecessor and tutor Sepp Herberger, as the country's most successful national coach.

Herberger's record (only in the post-war period from 1950 till 1964) reads:

P	W	D	L	F	A
97	52	14	31	219	145

Schön's record (from 1964 to date):

P	W	D	L	F	A
103	68	19	16	222	78

In the Bundesliga, approaching the half-way mark, the new leaders were Kickers Offenbach. What a change of fortunes has this club experienced. Three years ago Kickers had been relegated and their president at the time, Horst Gregorio Canellas, had made his sensational disclosures of bribery in the Bundesliga which shook the whole structure of German football to its foundations.

Attack

Now this team are riding high and rank with the favourites for the championship. Kickers have some fine players, especially in attack, where the redoubtable goalgetter Erwin Kostedde is splendidly supported by the veteran international Sigi Held.

Even at 32 the flying Held has impressed the national manager so much, that he picked him for the squad to play against Greece. Unfortunately Held has had to withdraw at the last minute, because of the sudden death of his father.

Champions Bayern Munich are still unusually erractic. Having gone for over four years without a home defeat, they have already lost twice recently. After the 0-2 record shattering slump against Schalke, came the staggering 2-5 defeat at the hands of modest Kaiserslautern!

This setback came just three days after Bayern qualified for the quarter-finals of the European Cup, by beating East German champions Magdeburg in both legs. Bayern will, incidentally, play the final of the unofficial world club championship either in March, or in April, in Munich. It is planned to play just one deciding game against the South American Cup holders, Independiente of Buenos Aires (Argentina).

Gates in the *Bundesliga* continue to flourish with the season's record established in the first-ever Berlin "derby" since the creation of the National League. Hertha BSC v. Tennis Borussia drew to the Olympic stadium a crowd of 75,000!

Two interesting newcomers were welcomed to the lower echelons of German football. Argentinian World Cup star Carlos Babington (25) joined the Second Division (North) club Wattenscheid for £85,000. And the Hungarian star Zoltan Varga, who after his involvement in the bribery scandal, whilst with Hertha, moved on to Aberdeen, but recently didn't make the grade with Ajax Amsterdam, has returned to Germany and now plays for Borussia Dortmund, also in the Second Division (North); 42,000 fans turned out at the Westfalen stadium to see his debut!

Helmut Kremers of West Germany.

Pressures –same for managers as the players

Jack Charlton, manager of Middlesbrough, collects his players track suits before a game in London.

Jack Charlton in an interview with KEN GOLDMAN

Q. What pressures did you find when you became manager which were different from being a player?

A. Funnily enough I found none. The pressures were merely the same as when I was a player — having to win matches consistently and to create good team work.

What is your main philosophy of play?

I believe in doing simple things effectively to which end I formulate a basic idea of what I want and strive to get it, subject to the players I have available.

Do your players get a say in tactics etc?

I believe in players having a say in tactics and teamwork and mine are not frightened to express what they want, although in the end being a bit dogmatic it is usually my ideas that tend to prevail.

What kind of manager do you consider yourself?

In fact I tend to regard myself as a coach rather than a manager. I therefore talk tactics with my players as if I were a player going out to play the match with them. I feel it is necessary for me to explain to players why I do things and how it will work. Thus if it fails I have to show them why and where it went wrong.

Do you believe in discipline?

Yes. I am a firm believer in discipline on the field with players doing what they are told. This does not remove their individualism which is given full rein in the skills which I wish them to produce.

Having been a defender yourself what do you feel about the present play of defenders?

I feel strongly that defenders in this country are not encouraged to be skilful enough. They are entitled to take decisions in just the same way as forwards and to become involved in situations provided the circumstances of play merit it.

What are your relations like with the media?

They have always been good because I consider that they promote the game. They frequently make individual players household names and people want to go and see those men play which is all for the good of football. This applies to T.V. as well as the press.

Have you any pet hopes for the future of the game?

One thing I would very much like to see occur is for referees to be given more instruction in the practical effect their decisions have on players during a game.

Likewise I would hope they could get together more to discuss consistency of decision and interpretation and in general advance towards professionalism as has happened in this country in several other sports.

As you have indicated a great love for coaching where do you think coaching should stand in this country.

I have no doubt in my mind that I became a better player when I became a better coach. I would go so far as to say that all the top men in football management at every level should always be qualified coaches for otherwise it demands the whole coaching system.

Babington moves into the unknown

PLENTY of World Cup men have switched clubs since the Finals, but none of the ensuing transfers have been as strange as that of Carlos Babington from Huracan of Buenos Aires to an unkown West German club, SG Wattenscheid 09.

To put the matter in perspective: Babington was one of the outstanding players in the World Cup, whereas Wattenscheid, despite the fact that they were founded back in September 1909, only achieved their first title of real merit this year when they won the Regional League (West).

In fact Wattenscheid, who have a stadium which will hold 27,000 (including 800 seated) but which has never been put to the test, only entered the Regional League in 1970, and must have been as surprised as anyone to find themselves now a better-than-average member of the newly-formed West German Second Division North.

Their record crowd at the Lohrheide stadium was 23,400 for a Cup game against eventual finalists Hamburg in February, but the average this season has been around a meagre 4,000.

Club president, Klaus Steilmann, the man who bought Babington virtually single-handed, hoped for a 20,000 crowd to see the fair-haired Argentinian make his debut against Preussen Münster at the start of November, but in fact only 10,000 turned up.

Impressive

Steilmann was not too upset. "We're quite happy with the crowd. After all, we're no Borussia Dortmund, and we don't have a Westfalenstadion," he said.

The cross-reference was to the 42,000 "gate" Dortmund had pulled in the week before when their latest signing, Zoltan Varga, late of Ajax, Aberdeen, Hertha Berlin and Ferencvaros, made his debut.

At least Babington gave the crowd something to cheer—Wattenscheid's first goal in their 4-0 victory. Typically it was the most impressive of the evening, a direct free kick from just outside the penalty box which he drove straight home from 20 yards five minutes after half-time.

Babington was substituted after 70 minutes by trainer Karl Heinz Feldkamp because "we didn't want to tire him," and it was obvious that the Argentinian will need some time to adjust to the faster pace of the West German game even at this comparatively low level of skill.

The muddy pitch was no advantage for him either, of course, and he made a very quiet start indeed, only touching the ball twice inside the first quarter of an hour.

I've an idea that Babington may have bitten off more than he can chew, making the switch from the hard grounds and heat of South America to the comparatively unfriendly and changeable climate of West Germany.

Troche and Boteiro (Uruguay) both failed a couple of years back with Alemania Aachen; Jose Zeze (Brazil) and Ricardo Neumann (Argentina) had no luck with 1st FC Köln; Julio Baylon (Peru) has just gone to Spain after a sad time with Fortuna Düsseldorf.

And Teofilo Cubillas (Peru again) did not exactly enjoy himself in neighbour-in Switzerland.

by

KEIR RADNEDGE

Still, if Babington thinks the financial terms make it all worthwhile, it may be a different matter. But I can't say that the contract he is on strikes me as very generous compared with those a number of Spanish or many other West German clubs would have offered.

He gets a flat, a car and a guaranteed £10,000 a year. It's chicken feed when you think of the amounts he could earn —albeit for a more rigid and disciplined and ambitious club.

Babington has a two-year contract, and the transfer cost Wattenscheid, or rather Steilmann, an £80,000 fee.

Fantasy

David Braceto, president of the Argentina FA, who is also president of Huracan, tried to make out at first that the fee was £280,000, which would have been a new record for an Argentinian player, easily beating the £150,000 total Real Madrid paid for Oscar Mas.

But Steilmann replied: "That's just a fantasy. The fee was £80,000."

Talks between the club and the player took nearly three months, and Babington's father, Ernesto, came to Europe with him to complete the deal. The player's wife, Alicia, will join him soon and, presumably, will also attend the night classes where Babington has already started learning German.

The deal was virtually signed and sealed by the end of September, but Babington's insistence on a large signing-on fee (rumoured to be £25,000) and initial difficulties in obtaining a work permit, held matters up.

Argentina will certainly miss Babington at the time of his departure he was, with ten goals, joint second top scorer in the league, and after his success in the World Cup had held his place in the national team for the 1-1 draw with Spain in Buenos Aires.

Bad luck

Yet, that Babington should have shone in the World Cup was entirely due to a team-mate's bad luck—a knee injury suffered by fellow Huracan man, Roque Avallay, after the national team had arrived in Europe en route for West Germany.

Babington, who had been in the original 40 but left out of the intended 22, was flown in a week or two before the Finals, but acquitted himself so brilliantly, first against Poland, then Italy, that he became a star attraction overnight.

Against Poland (lost 3-2) he scored, and then, stupidly, he was booked against both Italy and Haiti for handling the ball needlessly.

Delighted

The result was that he was automatically banned from the semi-final group opener against Holland, and Argentina lost 4-0 looking but a shadow of the team which had delighted the German fans up until then.

Though Babington returned to face Brazil (lost 2-1) and East Germany (drawn 1-1), the Argentinians had shot their bolt.

Like so many fine Argentinian players, he began his career in the junior teams of River Plate. But, having failed to progress beyond the ninth team, he soon switched to Huracan and made his first division debut while on loan to Deportivo Colon in 1969.

Babington, who was 25 on September 20, has won 30 caps altogether. It seems unlikely now that he'll win many more.

England result cheers Swiss

SWISS soccer followers celebrating their national side's 3-0 victory over Portugal, in a friendly at Berne, were stupefied to hear that England had failed to beat the same opponents in a European Championship match. The Swiss commentators are traditionally cautious and there exists a curious inferiority complex among their footballing fraternity, which often hampers an objective assessment of their real strength.

Where in other countries a win is greeted with triumphal chants, the prudent Swiss will demand to know: "Did we win because we're good, or just because the opposition was poor?" This was in fact the most frequently posed question in all mass medias after they thrashed Portugal.

Admittedly, successes at international level have become rather scarce in recent years, so that any win is welcome, but one with a three-goal margin immediately raised doubts as to whether it was a true reflection of the class of the national team, or simply put down to the ineptitude of the Portuguese.

For those who had seen both matches in Berne and at Wembley it became apparent that the truth lies, as so often happens, somewhere in the middle. The Swiss played extremely well and with any luck might, indeed should have doubled the score.

Interval

Jeandupeux alone missed at least three "sitters", on two occasions shooting past an open goal from a relatively short distance. He did however open the account in the 9th minute and Pfister, the Servette striker, added a second with a free kick three minutes before the interval. Schild's penalty (63) for a foul on Müller settled the score at 3-0.

Only 12,500 spectators turned out at the Wankdorf stadium; those who stayed at home must have been sorry to have missed such a decisive Swiss victory.

Switzerland's highly competent performance impressed England's national manager Don Revie who came to study the Portuguese. He was later quoted as saying: "The Swiss played magnificently. On this night, against this opposition they looked world class." This was high praise indeed, but most Swiss commentators put his words down to the "traditional English politeness"!

Switzerland's chief René Hüssy was however delighted with his charges, especially the forwards. And little wonder, for one has to go back 18 internationals to September 26, 1971, in fact, to find the Swiss having scored more than two goals! Then they beat Turkey in Zurich by 4-0.

Curiously enough the match against Portugal was Switzerland's dress rehearsal for their European Championship away game in Turkey! Interesting to note that for the first time in over 10 years and after 64 internationals the Swiss played without Kuhn and Odermatt or at least without one of these famous schemers. The midfield trio in Berne comprised Schild, Hasler and Schneeberger who did extremely well.

The Portuguese who are in a transitional stage of rejuvenating and rebuilding, played badly in Berne. I give full marks to their manager José Maria Pedroto who refused to panic in face of

News from SWITZERLAND

by Arthur Rotmil

some severe criticism but stuck to his relatively young and inexperienced players. He made three changes for the match with England at Wembley, but if one includes Chico and Teixeira, who in Berne came on as substitutes, but began the match against England, then Portugal had really made only one alteration: Alhinho in the centre of their defence for Barros.

Victory

Of course, the Portuguese played better at Wembley than in Berne, for after all this was a European Championship game. The fact that they were given no chance at all by the English Press, has probably made them all the more determined to do well!

After the 3-0 victory it was clear that Hüssy would not make any changes for the encounter with Turkey at Izmir, followed incidentally three days later by a friendly against Hungary in the provincial town of Szolnok.

The domestic programme had by then closed down for the customary winter break, which for some clubs will last fully four months! League leaders at the half way stage were as expected the title holders FC Zurich, who opened a three-point gap over Winterthur, whom they beat in their last match before the close by 2-0.

Zurich suffered a disappointment when they were eliminated in the Cup by their old rivals Basel, losing 1-3 at home. It was a tough match in which 63 fouls were given! But this was not the only surprise of the competition. Modest Chenois eliminated strongly fancied Servette thanks to the away-goal rule copied from the European Cup, after the quarter-finals were played off on a home-and-away basis.

Sensational

Young Boys of Berne continued their improvement removing Lausanne by winning both legs 2-1 and 4-2. Basel had few problems with Second Division Etoile Carouge, though the scores, each of 2-1, appeared meagre. But the most sensational tie concerned Winterthur and another Second Division outfit Grenchen. After each side had won at home by 2-0 it was necessary to decide the semi-final place with a penalty contest. Winterthur's goalkeeper Hans Küng not only saved three (!) penalties, but he also converted one spot kick himself to help his team to a glorious victory.

The semi-finals will be held upon the restart on March 9 and 12, with CS Chenois meeting Basel and Young Boys opposing Winterthur. The wretched weather which has already caused a slump in attendances in League matches, has of course also affected the gates in the Cup. The quarter-finals produced an average of just 5,175 spectators per game.

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Report from Paul Radford in Caracas, Venezuela

PLAY-OFF FIASCO!

THE play-off for the 1974 Venezuelan professional football championship has ended in an almost total farce with the most crucial match of the season not being played at all . . . because the plane carrying the visiting team arrived late!

With one game to go in the play-off—a mini-league to decide the championship between the top four league teams — the 1973 champions, Portuguesa of Acarigua, were clear favourites to win. Unbeaten, they led with seven points from five games, one ahead of the Caracas team, Galicia, and three ahead of Estudiantes of Mérida. Anzoategui of Puerto La Cruz were last with just three points.

Portuguesa's last game — away to Estudiantes — was due to kick-off at 11.15 in the morning and, unwisely as it transpired, the Acarigua team had arranged to fly to Mérida the same morning. But because of mechanical troubles, the plane which was to take the team to Mérida arrived several hours late, by which time the referee had called off the game and awarded the points to Estudiantes.

The problem didn't stop there. The football league's rules on the subject of forfeited matches are blatantly contradictory. While one article states that a team not appearing for a match should lose the game AND have a further two points deducted, another article says the team should merely be fined.

Barred

To complicate matters, the Venezuelan Football Federation's rules indicate that the team should lose one additional point and be barred from the next tournament! So the question was — did Portuguesa now have five, six or seven points?

With the issue still unresolved the farce continued in Caracas later the same day where Galicia took the field for the match against Anzoategui . . . and the opposition failed to appear! Anzoategui had reached the ground all right, but they refused to take the field as a protest against the referee who they claimed was biased against them.

Galicia waited patiently for 25 minutes before Anzoategui relented. The final result was a scrappy one-all draw, leaving Galicia with seven points, not knowing whether or not they were champions.

Two days later the league decided that Portuguesa would not lose any extra points and that they should play home and away games with Galicia to decide the championship. At the time of writing no dates for these fixtures have been announced. The only thing that is clear is that Portuguesa and Galicia will represent Venezuela in next year's Capo Libertadores.

The league's decision left Portuguesa with a good chance of retaining their title. The Acarigua team, thought by most neutral observers to be the most complete side in Venezuela, has had a spectacular career since being formed just three years ago, registering their first triumph by winning the league and cup double last year.

This season the team has been improved by the acquisition of the 28-year-old midfield star, Luis Mendoza, believed by many to be the best player Venezuela has ever produced. But much of Portuguesa's success must be attributed to its three Paraguayan stars — the huge goalkeeper, Romero, international defender, Tavarelli, and inside-forward, Ivaldi.

All of the eight teams in the professional league, which began in 1957, have a large number of foreign players, mainly from Brazil and Uruguay. Although under the league's rules not more than five foreigners may appear in the same team, many of the non-foreign players are not, strictly speaking, Venezuelans. Football is played mainly by the large immigrant groups of Spaniards, Italians and Portuguese and they make up most of the "Venezuelans" in each time.

Boxing

Although the popularity of the game is increasing in Venezuela and soccer is now played in some state schools, when it comes to sport native Venezuelans still prefer the three B's — baseball, boxing and bull-fighting. Crowds at league games rarely average more than three or four thousand, and the country's largest ground, the Olympic Stadium in Caracas has only twice experienced a capacity 25,000 attendance.

Lack of support is, however, not the only problem facing the sport in Venezuela. Soccer in the country has recently been going through an organisational crisis threatening the whole future of the game.

Most of the trouble centred on the running dispute between the professional league and the former president of the Venezuelan Football Federation, Asdrubal "Quemao" Olivares. Olivares, an official with a decided taste for publicity, objected to the way the professional clubs "poached" amateur players and was also unhappy about the number of foreign players in the league.

In 1971 he brought the dispute to a head when he decided to stop the professional league on the pretext that it had exceeded its authority in allowing up to three substitutes in a game.

Most people thought Olivares had gone too far and leaders of the governing soccer bodies in each state held a meeting with representatives of the government's National Sports Institute at which it was decided to suspend Olivares and appoint a new president.

Olivares, who was not invited to the meeting, refused to accept the decision and found some support among a few of the states governing bodies. The ludicrous result was that Venezuela had two bodies claiming to govern organised soccer.

Limited

Since Olivares was Venezuela's representative with FIFA, his body continued to be recognised by FIFA, although he had clearly only very limited power. As a result Venezuela found itself excluded from the World Cup and the Copa Libertadores.

FIFA launched an investigation, but no solution was found until last year when it was agreed to form a commission comprising three members of the rival organisations and two league representatives. While the commission is still working on its task of organising soccer in the country and forming a new ruling body, Venezuela's headaches continue.

The controversial decision to hold a play-off at the end of the league championship has hardly pleased anybody. Estudiantes are furious because they won the league with five points to spare. But loss of form in the play-off robbed them of their first championship title and entry into the Copa Libertadores.

The four teams who did not qualify for the play-off — Valencia and the three Caracas teams, Deportivo Portugues, Deportiva Italia and Tiquire Flores Canaries — are not happy either. Since they were unable to pay their players while they were playing no matches, all the foreign stars went back to their home countries. Now the four teams are unable to raise a side for the Venezuelan Cup, due to start after the play-off.

● Continued on page 35

KEIR RADNEDGE reviews the domestic scene i

Barcelo rejuvena

LAST summer saw the re-awakening of one of European football's slumbering giants—Club de Futbol Barcelona. They had been in the doldrums too long, staggering along haphazardly from one trainer to another, one optimistic and costly signing to another, and another, and another . . .

Now at last it has become clear that the club stumbled on the right road with the engagement as coach three years ago of "Iron-Rinus" Michels, enticed from the then newly crowned European champions, Ajax.

It was the influence of Michels which was all-important in the £1 million capture of Johan Cruyff, and it was the signing of Cruyff which was the cornerstone of Barcelona's regaining the Spanish championship last season after 14 years.

But another player, also signed in the summer of 1973, had an important role in that success and the importance of his skills recently landed CFB in a very sticky situation.

The player is Hugo Sotil, nicknamed "Cholo", one of the stars of the Peruvian side which proved such a revelation in the 1970 Mexico World Cup.

But it was not until two years later, when Barsa president Agustin Montal made a scouting trip to South America, that he first came to Barcelona's attention.

Sotil had been born in a small town called Ica, a good 20 miles from Lima, on September 18, 1949. His boyhood enthusiasm for soccer earned a lot of trouble with his parents, but at 17 he was caught in the nets of Alianza of Lima, one of Peru's leading clubs. They brought him to the capital, only for this "new" life to overwhelm Sotil.

He never fulfilled his potential and in disappointment Alianza released him to Guillald after only a year.

Now he was in the second division, but at least had become a regular first team player, and his displays prompted another second division club—Deportivo Municipal of Lima—to sign him.

With Sotil equally adept at creating goals and scoring himself, Deportivo took the second division title and went straight on to take the league championship. Hardly surprising that their new star soon found his way into the national team for the first of his 27 caps—which included four appearances in Mexico.

Ironically two of these were as substitute for club colleague Julio Baylon, now trying to pick up the threads of his career in Spain after an unhappy year in West Germany.

Opposition

Sotil impressed Montal, and Michels was sent to Peru to add his considered opinion. The end result was that Barsa signed the player for £65,000 in the summer of 1973 and when he made his debut, in the Barcelona-sponsored Hans Gamper tournament, the opposition were none other than Deportivo Municipal!

Barcelona won 5-0 with Sotil scoring, and he netted again when his new club beat Borussia Moenchengladbach on penalties after drawing 2-2 after extra time in the final.

Sotil then played in all CFB's league matches of the way to the championship, and if he didn't feature among the leading scorers he played a large part in helping Marcial and Cruyff get the goals which mattered.

Everything seemed perfect.

And then Barcelona signed Johan Neeskens.

Spanish FA rules permit only two foreigners per team, and three into two clearly won't go. Having signed Neeskens, CFB obviously intended to use him, and there was no question of Cruyff being usurped. Sotil was naturally upset. He even felt a little betrayed, though Barcelona quickly tried to pacify him by asking if he were prepared to become a naturalised Spanish citizen.

"But that would take time," Sotil objected. "I want to play football, either for Barcelona, or if not, preferably in Peru again."

Neeskens arrived in a clamour of publicity and played alongside both Cruyff and Sotil in the first pre-season warm-up matches. And now Barcelona set to work trying to sort out their problem. Lawyers were instructed to sift through a virtually-forgotten double nationality treaty between Spain and Peru. Under this, CFB claimed, Sotil was already a Spanish citizen without losing his right to a Peruvian passport. Therefore he "could play in the league alongside Neeskens and Cruyff."

Needless to say, those views had to be put before the Spanish FA before the official deadline for registering players for the new season. Barcelona sent off all the relevant documents, but mysteriously, they got lost in the post! Copies had to be sent off with only ten days to go . . .

Documents

It was a nasty problem for FA president Perez Paya. A few years ago there had been the scandal of the forged documents which allowed half-a-dozen Paraguayans to play in Spain under false pretences.

Barcelona's claim would clearly open the floodgates for a new series of breaches of the spirit of the two-foreigners rule. Barcelona meanwhile were growing more impatient for a verdict—with the season rapidly coming closer, they wanted to have Sotil registered.

Perez Paya called an emergency meeting to consider the matter, but for varying reasons this had to be put back—and clearly the FA and the Ministry for Sport, which had now been involved, had no wish to appear to have been bulldozed into a decision either way.

In the end of course, there was only one decision they could take. For the sake of sanity they had to say "No". And this they did soon after the season got under way.

Meanwhile back at Nou Camp . . .

CFB had been trying to strengthen their team still further right up until the registration deadline. Their earlier target in the hunt for a goalkeeper had been Malaga's Juan Antonio Deusto. A £100,000 offer had been reject and now came a startling report that C had offered a cool £350,000 for Atletic Bilba international, Jose Angel Iribar.

That Barcelona had a goalkeeper probl no-one could dispute. Equally, there was li doubt that it was a problem of their c making.

In the summer of 1973 they had allow themselves the luxury of a contract disp with Miguel Reina, who had been with th eight years. He was transferred to Atlet Madrid, leaving CFB with veteran Salva Sadurni and Antonio Mora, his young, tot untried and inexperienced deputy.

Sadurni was first choice last term and ha good season, but at 32, and having been ou the first team for 18 months, was obviously long-term prospect for a club keen to establish themselves in Europe (Not t Iribar, at 31, can have all that long to go).

Perhaps Michels would not have been concerned about the goalkeeping situat had it not been for the Cup Final. Here Sadu made a number of crucial blunders, CFB w down 4-0 to Real Madrid, and Michels was amused.

Attacking

He had always parried criticism of Sadu before by replying: "You may think we h a weakness in goal. But so what? We are a defensive team. We are an attacking s so we don't need to worry so much ab defence as other teams."

Brave sentiments, and ones Michels m now stand by, for when the new season ope Barcelona had been unable to sign any and the first Champions' Cup clash v VOeEST Linz saw Mora between the post

Michels must have nearly suffered he failure when the young goalkeeper was carr off in Rotterdam, in the second round, aga Feyenoord, but fortunately he was not serio hurt, and Barcelona go into the new yea optimistic mood.

True, they don't have a new goalkeeper, they do have Brazil's Mario Marinho, reported here in November, to try to orga the co-defenders a little more effectively.

And even though Sotil is still "on ice", try to become an official Spaniard, he is not ban from European competition, and neithe Juan Carlos Heredia, the Argentinian bou in 1973 and then farmed out to Elche w Cruyff arrived.

Heredia, no relation to the Atletico Ma star, counts as a proper Spaniard himself n so Barcelona are hardly short of talent.

And, judging by the form Leeds United

SPAIN

ona ated

Bayern Munich have been displaying in their domestic competitions this season, it will take a brave man to deny Barcelona a real chance of winning the Champions' Cup at last.

Not that their own league form has been especially impressive, of course. But despite a stuttering start of the season, with nine matches played they had 12 points, handily placed, only three points behind leaders Real Madrid.

The fact that they lost that ninth game 5-2 to local rivals Espanol was a dent to their pride, but at this stage last season they were only a few places from the foot of the table, and look what happened then . . .

Johan Neeskens in action for Barcelona this season. Barcelona trail Real Madrid in the league championship race this season.

Lorenzo had to go... but so soon?

AS I was saying a few months ago: He had to go some time, but it was still something of a surprise that Juan Carlos Lorenzo should go in mid-season.

Typical of the man, you might say to go out with a bang rather than through the usual end-of-season, end-of-contract back door.

But then, Juan Carlos Lorenzo, to my certain knowledge, has always been one of those managers looking for security and acceptance rather than choosing the rocky path which he has unwittingly hacked out through a series of singular catastrophes.

Fate has decreed otherwise . . .

Come to think of it, it was less than a year ago that Miguel Munoz quit Real in a similar way—resigning when the pressures became just that little too great.

Lorenzo quit with Atletico 11th in the 18-club Spanish First Division, and with his team having unexpectedly let Derby off the hook to crash out of the UEFA Cup on penalties in their own Estadio Vicente Calderon.

Lorenzo could afford to be philosophical, for he won't be out of work for long, but he has made enough in the past 18 months in Spain not to have to snatch at the first chance of work.

"What's happened to me is normal in football," he said. "Nobody cheated me. I more or less expected to lose the job. All coaches commit errors, and sometimes they have to pay for them."

Lorenzo's one "record book" achievement with Atletico was to take them to the Champions' Cup Final last season, via the Celtic Park holocaust. But Atletico members might regard his most important work as being the way he used his influence to persuade Argentinian stars Ruben Ayala and Romon Heredia to sign on 18 months ago.

Appointed

Heredia and Ayala had been proteges of Lorenzo at San Lorenzo del Almargro, and when he was appointed in typically controversial circumstances to follow the equally unpredictable Max Merkel, who had just led Atletico to the Spanish title, Atletico really did some good business.

All right, so in the end it was bad publicity, with the Celtic affair being used to rake up all the murky details of Lorenzo's past, and the misdemeanours of his teams past and present.

Ironically, it seems that one of the reasons for his downfall was the latitude he has allowed Ayala, Heredia and defender Panadero Diaz—another Argentinian, formerly of Racing Buenos Aires — beyond the usually rigid confines of Club discipline.

During the summer Madrid was buzzing with rumours that all three had been breaking retiro, and that the more senior players were none too happy. All such stories were of course denied by either Lorenzo or his aide-de-camp, Joaquin Peiro, the one-time Atletico inside left.

Then Lorenzo brought more problems on himself by taking on a new physical training expert, Cesar Roman Gonzalez. The idea was to turn Atletico into the fitest team in Spain, but it was a plan which misfired and after a few weeks Lorenzo had to push Cesar Roman into the background.

Veterans Adelardo Rodriguez and Luis Aragones were clearly in line to lose their places after years of faithful service and it seems highly likely that it was this not unexpected attempt to rebuild the team which produced the split which cost Lorenzo both team spirit and finally his job.

To bring these suspicions, rampant for some time, much nearer home, it was only necessary for president Vicente Calderon to announce, as in due course he did, that following Lorenzo's departure, 36-year-old Luis would take over as caretaker.

Luis has had an odd career. He was discovered originally by Real Madrid, and loaned to their affiliated lower division side, Plus Ultra. He even made quite an impression on

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TOUR A SUCCESS

From Colin Jose in Canada

THE tour by Canada's national amateur soccer team to Europe during the month of October ended on a rainy evening at the Legia Stadium in Warsaw with Canada losing 0-2 to a team the Poles are said to be developing for the 1976 Olympics and which contained only one player—Andrej Szarmach—who played a major role in Poland's outstanding performance in this year's World Cup.

For the largely inexperienced Canadian team preparing under the most difficult of circumstances for the 1976 Olympics the tour has to be considered a success even though they didn't win a game. Despite enormous progress in recent years there is no way in which soccer in Canada can be even be remotely compared to soccer in any of the countries the Canadians met . . . at the moment.

The tour opened in Frankfurt-on-Oder with Canada losing 0-2 to East Germany in a full international. There can be no doubt that the East Germans were the superior team yet the Canadians held them to one goal until Dorner scored with literally the last kick of the game. Here goalkeeper Tony Chursky was outstanding showing remarkable improvement ever since he spent some three weeks in West Germany this summer being coached by Wolfgang Kleff of Borussia Monchengladbach.

But after a good performance in the first game the Canadians collapsed in the second, losing 0-5 to the East German Under 21 team in Neubrandenburg. Here after the Canadians quickly fell behind coach Eckhard Krautzun made a number of substitutions from his regular line up giving players with very limited experience a taste of international competition.

Striker

Yet despite this hammering the Canadians rebounded four days later against a strong West German amateur team in Wiesbaden losing by the only goal of the game in the 67th minute by Krause of Rot-Weiss Oberhausen. In this game the Canadians had much more of the play and striker Buzz Parsons hit the post with a header.

Referee Marcel Hermann of Luxembourg warned a number of Canadian players during the game for two footed tackles and later the German magazine 'Kicker' commented that the Canadians had played with an "Ice Hockey Mentality", meaning crudely. However, when asked for his impressions Helmut Schoen is reported to have said that he was surprised that Canada displayed such a high calibre of soccer.

With their game against Czechoslovakia in Teplice cancelled because of extensive flooding in that country, the Budapest where Jozsef Krizsan the Hungarian General Secretary informed the Canadian General Manager John McMahon that the Hungarians had decided to play their Under 23 team against Canada. This, he told McMahon, "is the team that the Hungarians are developing for the Olympics."

Here the Canadians played what was perhaps their best game of the tour with Victor Kodelja of the Vancouver Whitecaps giving Canada the lead with a goal from 25 yards in the 28th minute which temporarily silenced the crowd of 25,000 on hand for the game. Hauser the left winger from Haladas levelled the scores in the 58th minute and from then on play swung from end to end with neither team being able to snatch the winner. The following day the Hungarian press announced with some surprise that Canada could play soccer as well as ice hockey.

In Warsaw, Canada was two goals down inside ten minutes as Kasalik and Jakobczak scored two simple goals with goalkeeper Chursky stranded in the sea of mud that was the goalmouth. But from then on play was relatively even and afterwards the Canadians felt that they might have won had this game been played earlier in the tour.

Obscurity

Manager McMahon, who has been instrumental in the development of the Canadian national teams from obscurity in 1970 to a position of relative respectability that had been shown to the team throughout the tour. He was also pleased with the overall performance of the team taking into consideration the calibre of the opposition that the Canadians met.

However, many of the less informed critics within the Canadian game, some of whom do considerable damage through their ignorance, were not so impressed and it seems felt that Canada should have turned in a much better performance.

Coach Eckhard Krautzun, who has been in charge of the team for one year now and who is expected to produce miracles on a shoe string budget with players who rarely get to play in first class soccer, many of whom only play in local leagues, replies to his critics by telling them that "Taking a Canadian soccer team to play against the likes of East Germany and expecting them to win is like expecting England to beat Canada at ice hockey."

Krautzun still finds the whole Canadian sports scene a puzzle and in particular this country's approach to soccer, is taking the position that the only really important game is the one scheduled for July 17, 1976 the opening day of the Olympics. "If Canada doesn't do well then," he says, "you can fire me."

Certainly Krautzun and McMahon know that they have a lot of hard work ahead of them before that date, but as a result of this tour they have been able to build up a nucleus and by playing these players together for the next 18 months plus searching for players to fill the problem positions it is possible that Canada could surprise a lot of people in 1976.

At the present time Tony Chursky seems to have nailed down the number one goalkeeper spot, but there are a number of good young goalkeepers in Canada

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Slum

BRAZILIAN soccer — always considered the richest in South America both in talent and wealth (because they pay the highest transfer fees and salaries there) — is going through its worst economic crisis and officials are seriously thinking of turning clubs into limited companies to save them.

Only Santos, of the major clubs, is showing a profit on soccer in 1974 and this is mainly due to lucrative foreign tours and Pelé's presence. His absence now may create a problem for Santos also.

The main reasons are poor attendances, big transfer fees and salaries paid to players. Most of the big stars play in that Sao Paulo League these days, but the average attendance at matches there has been just under 11,500 while Sao Paulo FC, for example, paid out 500,000 dollars in salaries in a season alone.

Contenders

In Argentina, with two games to go in the National Championship at press time, six of eight final round places remain to be filled—but for most of the season there has been little doubt about who's going to fill them.

There have been occasional upsets, but positions have remained remarkably steady with Boca Juniors and national champions Rosario Central coasting into the final from section A and likely to be strong title contenders also because of their sound displays all through the season.

Talleres (Cordoba), the outstanding provincial non-First Division team, have been topping section B all along and need only one more point to enter the final, while either Altos Hornos Zapla—

It looks like a photo in a "Spot the Ball" contest. Four players try to head it, the goalkeeper is ready to spot it, but the ball is partially hidden behind one of the airborne players. It's a scene from the Argentine National Championship match between FC Oeste and Racing Club (striped shirts) both fighting for a place in the finals. Oeste won 2-1.

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

p in Brazil

another outstanding non-leaguer — or Newell's Old Boys, this year's Metropolitan First Division champions, are fighting for the second place.

River Plate also share second place in this section, but the club's internal upheavals continue and coach Omar Sivori's continual team changes bring no improvement, so that the "Millionarios" are the least favoured of the three.

San Lorenzo—continuing to play unattractive soccer under ex-Estudiantes de La Plata coach Osvaldo Zubeldia—have topped section C all the way while FC Oeste and Racing Club have been fighting for second place, but Oeste's recent 2-1 win over Racing has virtually put them in the final.

Section D has been a continual dog fight all the way between Valez Sarsfield, Independiente, Huracan and San Martin (Mendoza), although the first-mentioned, with a two point lead, should make it while Independiente, the Libertadores Cup holders, are the best bet for the other place.

Financial

The championship, providing financial losses for all participants and poor soccer for the fans, continues to be plagued by incidents.

The worst came in Salta where the Central Norte (Salta) v Boca Juniors match had to be suspended 11 minutes before the end—with Boca leading 3-0—when fans started throwing everything they could lay their hands on (including chairs) onto the field. The match itself had been rough—three Salta players were sent off—but nothing much depended on the result. Boca Juniors were already finalists while Central Norte had no chance to get there.

It seemed to be just a case of local partisanship, the local uncertain political situation at the time and poor police control. The result was that Boca Juniors—some of whom were injured by flying stones—and the referee could not leave the stadium until four hours after the game had finished and then only under strong police protection which had to stay with them until they left town.

Salta is a possible World Cup venue for 1978 which, however, should not worry FIFA unduly. Belgium plays Bulgaria there and police control will be a lot tighter.

Represent

PARAGUAY'S Cerro Porteño won the First Division for the third year running when they beat second-placed Olimpia 2-1 on the last day to take a final three point lead in the match.

A win for Olimpia in this tension-packed match, watched by 50,000 including the country's president Stroessner, would have given them the title. The two clubs will again represent Paraguay in the Libertadores Cup.

In Venezuela four clubs — Galicia, Portuguesa, Anzoategui and Estudiantes—are playing the final round of the professional league to pick two teams to represent the country in the next Libertadores Cup.

In Chile, Palestino continues topping the Chilean First Division with Hauchipato the closest challengers, while Colo-Colo is the best placed of the big clubs in third place—five points behind the leaders. But Huachipato beat Colo-Colo 1-0 in a vital match for second place which had an unusual ending.

Huachipato were leading 1-0 against Colo-Colo, already playing with seven men as four had already been sent off. Then the referee sent off a fifth Colo-Colo player and ended the match as the team were left with less than seven players—which according to rules—is not enough to carry on playing.

In Colombia six teams—Juniors, Cali, Pereira, Millionarios, America and Nacional—are playing the final round of the Colombian professional league after qualifying from the two championships—the "Abertura" and the "Finalizacion".

In Peru, Universitario, although unbeaten in their last 24 games, haven't managed to catch up Union Huaral, the semi-amateur team from the provinces composed mostly of farm labourers, even though Universitario beat Huaral 3-0 recently.

But this lengthy national championship is also proving costly for the clubs and one provincial team—Sport Pierola—recently turned up in Lima with players of another (amateur) team because their own would not travel as they had not been paid. The Lima team even had to lend the provincials a set of shirts to play in.

There was talk that the Peruvian FA would expel Sport Pierola for fielding unregistered players. Two weeks later they failed to turn up for a match and announced they were withdrawing from the championship, but actually they are still playing and are ten points above bottom club Mannucci. That's "professional" soccer in Peru.

Czechoslovakian team manager VA

MONEY WI FOO

IN 1974 it is difficult for anyone closely involved with football to be optimistic about the future of the game. Money is playing a greater and greater part and as it's influence grows, so the game itself becomes less important.

I receive and read sport papers and magazines from many different countries and the biggest headlines are reserved for incredibly high transfer fees, win bonuses for European Cup games and players wanting bigger and bigger salaries.

Money now seems to dominate the game — big money — and the more money there is flying about, the more the players lose their character. Many good players have been spoiled by money and there is no sign that this trend is coming to an end.

Clearly it is a paradoxical situation but according to what I read and hear from around the world, the players are getting more money than ever before while the numbers of people who actually go to watch football are going down. In my opinion, money is the enemy of real football.

Of course, it cannot be denied that the game is more competitive today and that overall standards are going up, not because there are more good players around but because the physical condition of the players has improved so dramatically.

Forefront

The individual player today also has a better tactical and technical understanding of the game and if there are fewer really outstanding stars playing today it is also true that there are more multi-purpose players coming to the forefront. By this I mean, players who are good in midfield and equally good in defence and in attack.

In the 1970 World Cup for example there were far more outstanding individuals than in the World Cup played this year. In the Mexico series, Brazil had Pele, Tostao, Gerson and Rivelino who were all outstanding . . . and there were many more in the other teams that took part, too numerous to mention individually.

In 1974 there was perhaps only Beckenbauer who equalled this high standard while Cruyff also played at the same level (some of the time) but it was noticeable that Rivelino, for example, was not as good. Indeed he was very weak in the game I saw between Brazil and Poland.

While there were fewer really top class individuals there were very many players who could be classed as very good, players like Lato, Gadocha and Deyna of Poland just to name one team, not in the Pele class but nevertheless very good players.

The defensive tactics of 1974 didn't help individual players to shine of course so it is not surprising that the game seems to have fewer stars.

To mention only one example, Cruyff in the World Cup final was very tightly marked by Vogts throughout the game and whenever Cruyff threatened danger there was Beckenbauer, and either Bonhof or Schwarzenbeck not very far away ready to cover Vogts if necessary.

Control

Not many years ago the players had a great deal more time to receive and control the ball — they had a better chance to play — but the improved physical condition of the players now makes it much more difficult.

Overall, the game in 1974 is technically inferior to what we saw in Mexico four year ago but at least the three most successful teams this time were progressive and trying to play attacking football — West Germany, Holland and Poland who rightly took the top places. Among the most successful teams today only Brazil are ultra-defensive.

Maximum

We played Brazil in Rio de Janeiro shortly before the World Cup (and lost 1-0) and it was clear then that they were playing very defensively. Of course their defence was very strong but in that game in Rio as well as in the World Cup, their attack was a little slow and they were only dangerous very occasionally through breaks by Jairzinho.

If England had not failed to qualify for the World Cup I am sure they would have reached the second phase and perhaps even reached the semi-finals. But for Czechoslovakia our maximum hope would have been to get through the first qualifying round with no chance of reaching the last four.

Sweden looked at one stage as if they might make it but in my opinion they played anti-football.

For the European championship qualifying group that includes my team and England I have felt all along that the key to qualification could be how the two teams get on when they play away to Portugal. If England win in Lisbon and we fail (or vice versa) that could be the decisive factor.

For us in Czechoslovakia there are many problems. Perhaps the most important is the fact that our best players lack consistency. We have some very good players but when they play for the national team they play good or bad — no average (but good) performances, but varying from one extreme to the other.

Of course you cannot know before each game how they will play — and having discussed this problem with our club managers Josef Masopust (Dukla) and Jozef Venglos (Slovan Bratislava) they tell me it is the same at club level which confirms my opinions.

Terraces

I go to see games all over Czechoslovakia and for two reasons I quite often don't tell anyone where I'm going. I don't even ask the home club for a ticket but put on dark glasses, pay at the turnstiles and stand on the terraces with the fans. This way I hope to see players play without the knowledge that I am watching them — and it is also very interesting and informative to be amongst the typical, average spectator and hear his opinions freely expressed.

I often go to see training sessions, particularly of boys and youth teams for it is here, even amongst eight year old players that the future really lies. On such occasions I always go incognito of course, standing back and watching from a distance. In spite of many circular letters sent to our clubs I still find that young boys in Czechoslovakia are training for football as if their sport was athletics with far too much emphasis on running and not nearly enough practice with the ball.

We face formidable problems of a material kind too. For example we

VACLAV JEZEK says

WILL RUIN FOOTBALL

'Overall the game in 1974 is technically inferior to what it was'

Vaclav Jezek In an interview with Eric Batty

have not nearly enough grass pitches for our youngsters to play on, particularly in our big towns and cities. We also need more floodlit training areas so that both boys and senior players can train and practice more than is is possible when limited by daylight.

Above all perhaps we need football halls — not multi-purpose gymnasia which we have but are too small for football — but real football halls. This is a priority because of our customary winter which is quite long and often very cold.

Looking around at the world game today I am sure that for us in Czechoslovakia our model must be Poland. They face similar problems to us in every way and there seems to me no valid reason why we should not emulate them.

Ability

The style developed by West Germany and Holland — I think you call it total football in England—demands too many universal players of all-round ability than we can hope to develop. This was possibly the reason why Poland only took third place in the World Cup: because they had fewer players of the multi-purpose type and were also inferior in terms of physical condition compared to West Germany and Holland.

Poland's strength was on the wings and they were better prepared physically by comparison with the average Czech player. They played what I have come to call 'tempo-football' . . . always at a high tempo, and always ready to go forward and attack.

England (and Scotland) play a type of tempo-football too, based on very, very good physical condition. But England always try to go straight for goal without any change of rythm. England players seem unable to play the kind of pop-pop-pop game, based on quick short passes and then suddenly changing the rhythm with a quick long pass when a good opening has been created. Poland were better at this aspect of the game, even if as individuals the England players are more powerful.

Satisfied

Apart from our defeat at Wembley I am fairly satisfied with the development of the Czech team but I think the game against England could act as a spur to us. After the game, many of our players told me they realised how much they lacked physically by comparison with the English and if this persuades them to train harder and be more competitive it would be a big step in the right direction.

On the credit side, the Czech national team is now an average two years per man younger than it was in 1973 and we have achieved some creditable performances. For example we beat the Soviet Union away in Odesso 1-0, though it must be admitted that many factors were in our favour. That was played in early summer when we had played four matches together already in 1974 while the Russians at the start of their season had played only once. I thought 1-0 was just about a fair result.

For the immediate future there is the European championship and the England - Czechoslovakia - Portugal group is a very strong one. For myself I would say that this competition presents an opportunity to build a new, young team that will qualify (and do well) in the 1978 World Cup. But I understand the officials in our Federation (and our football fans) who want both. Everyone wants to be successful though personally I tend to take the longer view and be more patient.

In fact I would go beyond 1978 to 1982 in my planning, co-operating with everyone in the game to ensure that we bring up our young players the right way. But of course this must be done simultaneously with my efforts for the near future taking priority. 1978 is my major target but if things go right for us we could still create a surprise for 1976 . . . if we beat England in Bratislava and do well in Lisbon.

St. Etienne beat Hajduk

News from France by Andre Duclos

A TRIUMPH for Saint Etienne, a fine recovery by the French national team. Our football enters the new year with better grounds for optimism than it has had for many seasons. Saint Etienne's fantastic achievement, reversing a 4-1 defeat in Split to beat the Yugoslavs of Hajduk 5-1 in the return, must rank among the finest by a French club in European competition.

It is a very long time indeed since we have had a team in the quarter-finals of a competition in which Reims, when it was initiated, were such a force. All credit to the young Saint Etienne manager, Roby Herbin, whom some of you may remember sliding on his stomach after a fine attempt to head a goal against England at Wembley in the 1966 World Cup; a match in which his injury did much to torpedo the French chances. All credit to the Revelli brothers and a fine, attacking team.

What the Saint Etienne victory and the national team's 2-2 draw at home to East Germany have in common is surely morale; a quality which alas has been missing from our football for so long. Even the recent Belgian game, also valid alas for the European Championship, slipped out of our grasp when it looked as if a draw at least was in prospect. But France were actually 2-0 down from goals by Sparwasser and Kreische with only 11 minutes to go when first Jean Marc Guillou then the new man from Bordeaux, Gallice, scored goals to save the match.

Stamina

On the face of it, it seems unlikely that France can qualify in this group. Belgium, beginning with victories in Iceland and at home to ourselves, thus took a quick two point lead over the East Germans, who could only draw at home to the Icelanders, then away to ourselves.

But it is still very open. Belgium still have to come to Paris, a trip which they can scarcely relish, and a good result in East Germany is not impossible. Playing at home, as England found, they tend to concede more space and opportunity. Nor can there surely be an further doubt about French stamina.

There are in fact two Gallices; brothers, who were born at Caudéran and play for Bordeaux. Jean, the forward, is fifteen months older than the half-back, André — who got himself sent off playing at Strasbourg for a foul on Gress, but at least had the grace to shake hands with him before he went. Gress said he appreciated the gesture, but wondered why Bordeaux should choose to play in so physical a manner, than eventually the referee had no choice but to do what he did. André is 24, Jean 25.

One of the goal scoring heroes of Saint Etiennes victory over Hajduk was Yves Triantafilos, born in 1948 at Montbrison despite his Greek name, and a brief experience in Greek football. It is proving an excellent season, too, for the French international left winger or midfield man, 28-year-old Saint Etienne born Georges Bereta, whose slight physique makes him none the less effective.

Jean-Michel Larqué meanwhile, has dropped back successfully into midfield, a luxury which Saint Etienne can permit themselves, now that they have both Hervé and Patrick Revelli, his younger brother, to operate in attack.

Outsiders

Will Saint Etienne draw Leeds United in the quarter-finals of the Cup, when they are made known in January? Obviously Leeds would be a team to avoid, after all even Gerd Muller names them as one of the two club he doesn't want Bayern to meet, but as things stand, Saint Etienne would happily take on anybody. As outsiders who have got so far in the competition despite being unfavoured, and despite being so badly hammered in Yugoslavia, they have now everything to gain and little to lose.

Their triumph over Hajduk was particularly satisfying for their Yugoslav international goalkeeper, 33-year-old Yvan Curkovic, from Mostar. He is still playing with much authority, while the pivot of the defence is the 27-year-old Buenos Aires born stopper, the Argentinian international, Osvaldo Piazza.

As well that Gallice's header, in the 89th minutes, should give France that draw with East Germany, and prevent the year ending with a feeling of anti-climax, despite the success of Saint Etienne. To be as comprehensively dominated as France were in Parisi by East Germany yet still to break the stranglehold was a feat indeed.

We now have not only Paulo Cesar with us in Marseilles but also, as you may know, Jairzinho. This is coup indeed for M. Méric, the new Olympique Marseilles President, even if nobody is quite sure where he and Marseilles got the money. Paulo Cesar, as we know, came first. Then Botafogo reduced their asking price, and he was followed by Jairzinho; officially 29 years old, but believed by most people in Marseilles to be about 32. They have two year contracts, and deny being homesick for Rio, though Paulo Cesar seems to pop back there with extraordinary frequency. Each demanded an expensive new car and a private teacher, so he could learn French. Both wishes were granted.

Splendid

The surprise of the season has unquestionably been the form of the Corsican club, Bastia, who have been setting such a hot pace in the League, winning away as well at at home. Claude Papi, their 25-year-old international forward, has been in splendid form, as has Jacky Vergnes, who seems to have found new life and ebullience in the Corsican air.

Altogether the team does great credit to its manager, the former Toulouse left-half, capped just once for France, 37-year-old Pierre Cahuzac. This is his fourth season with Bastia, having previously been with another Corsican club, Ajaccio; though he was not born in Corsica himself, coming from Saint Pons.

Dominated

Bastia's success can only do good to a French Championship which has for too long been dominated by a handful of teams. But how sad that Reims' chances should be shattered when Bianchi, their Argentinian centre-forward, shattered a leg playing a friendly in Paris against Barcelona; soon after scoring all **six** in a 6-1 victory against poor Paris Saint Germaine.

BURNS IS HERO OF SCOTLAND

by Brian Marshall

WILLIE ORMOND, the Scottish international team manager, is at present undecided in what position to play Kenny Burns, the young Birmingham City player, who has this season blossomed into one of the best players in the English First Division.

It is not exactly a new situation in which Burns finds himself. His Birmingham manager, Freddie Goodwin, had the same problem in his mind with Burns only a few months ago.

For a long time he thought his future lay as a back four player and selected him in this position. But circumstances forced him to switch Burns into his attack and now he is convinced that he is one of the best young strikers in the game today.

It is hardly a coincidence that Birmingham are currently enjoying their best ever spell in the First Division and if they can maintain this form over the next few months it is very much on the cards that they will be in contention for the league title — an honour they have never won.

Birmingham fans would be delighted if their side could in fact finish in the top three because their name has never appeared in this grouping in the history of the club.

Mistake

Burns is the player who can lift the Midland club to these heady heights and no one will be more pleased than the player himself because he will be proving yet again the massive mistake that Glasgow Rangers made a few years ago when they told him he was no longer required at Ibrox Park.

The Glasgow-born player and fervent Rangers fan achieved a boyhood ambition when he was invited to join the Scottish club upon leaving school. But after two years he was informed that he should seek his future honours with another club.

Birmingham City and Crystal Palace offered him trials and when the St Andrew's club offered him terms he did not bother to continue his journey to London.

It is a decision he has never regretted but he admits that he is indebted to another Scot, the volatile Tommy Docherty, for the progress he has made over the past two years.

Within a few weeks of winning a place in the Birmingham side he was called up by Docherty as a stand-by for the Scottish international side. This request proved an inspirational move for young Burns and he has never looked back since that day.

Admittedly he was not even a regular member of the Birmingham side in those days and it was only the decision of the Birmingham club to part with Bob Latchford to Everton for a record £350,000 that gave him the opening to establish himself in the first team.

It is ironic that Latchford should have been involved in another important incident, which, upon reflection, has had an important bearing upon his career.

Injured

The game in question was again the Wolves at St. Andrew's. John Richards put Wolves ahead in the first minute without Gary Sprake touching the ball. Late in the first half Sprake was injured and taken off the field.

The player Birmingham manager Freddy Goodwin put in goal was none other than Latchford. Roger Hynd substituted for Sprake and this resulted in Burns being switched into the attack as a replacement for Latchford. He responded with a magnificent equaliser when he flung himself full length to glance a right wing cross from Trevor Francis past Gary Pierce.

This goal heralded the arrival of Ken Burns as a striker. Previously manager Goodwin had always looked upon him as a defensive member of his squad but with the departure of Latchford the young Scot was quickly in as a replacement.

At the time Goodwin said: "Young Kenny will need time to settle in this position. A great responsibility rests upon his shoulders and he will need the encouragement of everyone here at St. Andrew's."

Ken Burns.

Unfortunately the Birmingham fans, who everyone admits have been very patient over the years as the Midland club have struggled to maintain their position in the First Division, were a little disappointed with the early displays from Burns. They were very disappointed to have lost the services of Latchford, a local boy, and did not see the obvious promise in Burns' play.

It was away from the glare of the spotlight at St. Andrew's that Burns really displayed his rich potential late last season with a brilliant hat-trick against Leicester City at Filbert Street. Not many players have scored a hat-trick against Peter Shilton but on this day Burns was inspired and played a major role in Birmingham salvaging a point in a 3-3 draw after trailing by two goals in the opening 18 minutes play.

Over the last month his form has been repeated more often with the result that Birmingham are now moving up the First Division table and with their support could easily emerge as the leading team in the Midlands.

In Burns they have another player worth over £250,000 but on this occasion I doubt very much if Birmingham would ever consider parting with the youngster who appears destined to win more honours in the game.

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

HOW ABOU ...ARSENAL

I DON'T think there was ever much truth in the story that Arsenal were trying to sign Johan Cruyff, who won't be free in any case till 1976. There was surely even less in the bizarre canard that Gianni Rivera was coming to Highbury as . . . General Manager. I wonder what Bob Wall thought of that?

Still, there *have* been foreigners at Arsenal, and there would have been more had Bob Wall's mentor, the incomparable Herbert Chapman, had his way. He wanted to sign the famous Austrian international Rudi Hider, a Viennese baker who gave a wonderful display against England at Stamford Bridge in 1932, and who later went to France, played for the Racing Club de Paris, and took on French citizenship, together with another Viennese player, the centre-half, Gusti Jordan.

Chapman failed, though a Dutchman called Gerry (G.P.) Keizer, who worked over here in his family's fruit business, did play a number of games for the Gunners in the early 1930s. I remember Cliff Bastin telling me that he was a terrifyingly fast driver.

Many years later, in 1946, to be precise, there was the Icelandic international centre-forward or inside-right, Albert Gudmundsson. ("'It leaves me cold,' said an Arsenal terrace type", was the somewhat rudimentary joke this provoked in one of the popular daily sports columns.) Gudmundsson, a neat, quick, intelligent player, played a few games for the First Division side, then dropped into the Reserves, where I remember admiring and enjoying his performances. It was said—and I remember as a young Arsenal fan hoping it wasn't true—that Arsenal's players had protested against having a foreign amateur in the League team.

Things went well enough for the intelligent, amiable Gudmundsson after that. He might not have been good enough for Arsenal, but he was good enough for Racing Club de Paris, where he was very well liked and esteemed, and for Milan. Returning to his native island, he prospered, eventually becoming, as he still is, President of the Icelandic Federation ("I cod you not," as that bygone sports columnist might have said) and producing a son who was also good enough to play for Iceland.

Successful

Considerably more successful in London football was the Swede, Hans (Hasse) Jeppson. In the 1950 World Cup, he became an international star in his first game, at Sao Paolo, by running rings around the famous Italian and Rest of Europe centre-half, Carlo Parola. Italy lost 3-2, which virtually put them out of the competition. Jeppson who, if I remember rightly, was attached to an office furniture manufacturing firm, and had been abundantly coached in Sweden by her own George Raynor, sojourned a few months in London.

Charlton Athletic were the lucky club who got him, albeit briefly, for nothing. He scored a welter of goals for them, three coming in the same game against Arsenal and an unfortunate young goalkeeper who was making his First Division debut at Highbury; none other than Jack Kelsey.

Kelsey let through five that day, but lived triumphantly to tell the tale, even though he was lampooned at the Finsbury Park Empire that Monday. "Who are you?" Old Mother Riley asked a bedraggled figure who came on stage. "Arsenal's new goalkeeper?" Kelsey was upset, Tom Whittaker protested, and the slur was withdrawn.

In 1947, Chelsea had a fine European player in their team, the colossal blond Swiss defender, Willi Steffen. The massive Steffen was a full-back in the Swiss style; that is to say, he played more or less as a stopper. Chelsea, however, played him as a left-back, where he did well; a fact which perhaps moved the Rest of Europe to use him in the same position against Great Britain, at Hampden Park. Stanley Matthews destroyed him, and Britain won 6-1.

Surely the most successful foreign player ever to be here, however, was Bert Trautmann of Manchester City. Yet nothing could have been less auspicious than his coming. He arrived as a prisoner of war, a former Nazi paratrooper who took so long recanting

Paul Breitner, in action for Real Madrid. Will the time come when players like Breitner will be allowed into the Football League?

OUT FOREIGNERS AL IN FAVOUR

that he stayed in prison camp well after more tractable Germans had gone home. The little St. Helen's club signed him, and so well did he do in non-League football that Manchester City sought him.

Boycott

I recall that when they signed the big, blond German, a group of Jewish supporters threatened to boycott the club. But Trautmann settled down to become as popular, and perhaps even just as good, as the Titan he succeeded, Frank Swift. Had he been English, he would surely have won a bundle of caps. As it was ironically, he was never capped by anybody, not even his native Germany, though he did play for the Football League.

In Scotland, foreigners over the last decade or so have been a commonplace: there was a shoal of Scandinavians, and a Hungarian in Zoltan Varga, now back in West Germany after originally fleeing there from the Mexican Olympics, and being banned there for helping to throw a Hertha Berlin game.

The Scots made a very good thing out of Scandinavian stars. Even such a bastion of Scottish football as Rangers had such Danes as Soerensen, in goal, and Kaj Johansen, scorer of the winning Cup Final goal against detested Celtic, at right-back. Celtic themselves stood sternly clear of foreign talent; which no doubt would have pleased Mr. Alan Hardaker, its sworn foe in England.

But can he keep it out? Of course he can, say his supporters. Haven't Italy kept it out for nine years, Common Market or no Common Market, though they were original signatories of the Treaty of Rome? To this one can only reply, indeed they have but one cannot know how long they will continue to do so, if their legal position be ever seriously challenged.

For the Treaty of Rome specifically lays down that any national of one Common Market country is freely permitted to work in any other. This seems to mean to imply that were Arsenal seriously trying to sign Cruyff, were Juventus suddenly to decide they wanted Muller at all costs, then their respective football authorities could be successfully challenged in court; though whether that court be national or European is something I must leave to the lawyers.

It remains to ask whether the importing of foreign players is a good thing, to which I must somewhat equivocally reply, yes and no. Certainly it doesn't seem to have done much harm to the international football of West Germany and Holland, the two countries which contested the last World Cup Final, each of whose leagues is simply full of foreign players.

Feyenoord, in the European Cup, recently used two Danes and a Yugoslav, while Bayern Munich have a small corner in Scandinavians, Andersson, the Swedish international full-back, having recently arrived to augment it.

Native

Let in foreigners en masse, as the Italians were wont to do, and inevitably it must block the way to progress of the rising young native born players. It was surely no coincidence that in the years which followed their ban on foreigners, Italy should have their most successful international team for many years; whatever did or did not happen in the last World Cup.

Restrict the number to one or two per club—personally, I would say one—and I feel the effects might be benign; better standards in our presently dreary League, better crowds, greater interest. It is surely worth trying.

● Continued from page 25

Meanwhile, a lot of teams are in financial difficulties and it is feared that only four or five will be able to take part in the league next season. Last season Tiquire Flores Aragua, of Maracay, were forced to fold up in mid-term and their sponsors — the Tiquire Flores tomato ketchup company — transferred their support to the ailing Union Deportiva Canarias. But it now seems likely that the tomato ketchup firm and the soccer team will split company, with the probable result that Canarias will disappear completely.

Another worrying problem is the sudden decline in fortune of teams from the capital, Caracas. Three of the four Caracas teams finished in pitiful positions at the bottom of the league this year, including the two teams who have won the professional league a record four times each, Deportivo Italia and Deportiva Portugues.

Even Galicia, who with Italia form the "*big two*" *of Venezuelan soccer*, seem to be affected lately by the Caracas "disease". After three games they led the play-off with five points, and with two of their last three matches at home seemed certain to gain the title. Instead they scraped just two points from these games, including a lucky point from the 2-2 home draw with Portuguesa when Galicia equalised in the last minute after being outplayed for most of the game.

No Venezuelan club has ever made much progress in the Copa Libertadores and Portuguesa and Galicia seem unlikely to change that. The standard of football in Venezeula is still lower than elsewhere in South America.

The national team hasn't played since the 1972 mini-World Cup in Brazil where they were trounced 10-0 by Yugoslavia, but with a view to better results in the qualifying competition for the 1978 World Cup, it's been agreed that the national team should play at least five times a year.

The national trainer, Jose "Pepe" *Garcia recently named a squad of 23* players to train together and play a series of matches against teams comprising foreigners playing in Venezuela.

The squad is:

Goalkeepers: Jose Stapleton (Anzoategui); Andres Arizaleta (Portuguesa); Baudilio Crespo (Canarias).

Defenders: Ruben Torres (Anzoategui); Williams Salas (Portuguesa); Orlando Torres (Italia); Pedro Castro (Galicia); Freddy Ellis (Canarias); Luis Marquina (Estudiantes); Omar Dchoa (Portuguesa); Cecilio Gonzalez (Italia).

Midfield: Salomon Uzeche (Galicia); Luis Mendoza (Portuguesa); Richard Paez (Estudiantes); Hector Rodriguez (Valencia).

Forwards: Gonzalo Damaris (Deportivo Portugues); Vicente Flores (Portuguesa); Jose Toro (Galicia); Miguel Rivas (Estudiantes); Ivan Garcia (Estudiantes); Ramon Iriarte (Italia); Juan Antonia (Galicia); Jose Araque (Italia).

Final league tables:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Estudiantes	28	16	8	4	52	31	40
Galicia	28	12	11	5	43	31	35
Portuguesa	28	13	8	7	44	34	34
Anzoategui	28	12	8	8	39	37	32
Valencia	28	11	8	9	44	30	30
Canarias	28	5	9	14	26	42	19
Portugues	28	5	8	15	33	55	18
Italia	28	3	10	15	23	44	16

Leading scorers: Castillo (Anzoategui) and Chiazzaro (Estudiantes) 15.

Final play-off positions:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portuguesa	6	2	3	1	10	7	7
Galicia	6	2	3	1	7	6	7
Estudiantes	6	1	0	5	4	5	6
Anzoategui	6	1	2	3	5	8	4

European news review—BELGIUM... GREECE... LUXEMBURG

BRUGES CAN D

THE city of Bruges could well have decided the Belgium championship for 1974-75. In beating CS Bruges 3-0, RWD Molenbeek kept their unbeaten record and lead in the championship, while FC Bruges were beating Anderlecht 3-1.

Anderlecht had lost at Berchem the previous week by the only goal after losing both Jean Thissen and top scorer Francois Van Der Elst with injury.

Josip Bukal of Standard Liege is the leading scorer with 10 goals an honour he shares with Van Der Elst and Simoens of Ostende.

Complications have arisen over the Second Division where the performances at three separate stages of the season are being taken into consideration for those clubs concerned in the promotion race.

Rene De Saeyers of Antwerp received a three match UEFA ban after being sent off against Ajax in the UEFA Cup.

Gwerino and Kudas of PAOK.

★

OLYMPIAKOS remain the most successful club in Europe after eight matches. Their 5-1 victory over Kastoria keeps a 100 per cent record so far. And reserve striker Galakos who scored all three goals against Anderlecht in the European Cup recently did even better for the Greek Army team which beat its French counterparts 4-1 in the World Military Championships, getting all four.

National team selector Alketas Panagoulias used a friendly with Cyprus to sort out his team for the European Championship match with West Germany.

Appearance

They beat Cyprus 3-1 not unexpectedly but could do no more than draw 2-2 with the Germans which was satisfactory without being startling.

However the game was notable for the 46th international appearance of 33-year-old striker Dimitrious Papaioannou of AEK Athens, recalled to the team after a lengthy absence and now well established as his country's most capped footballer of all time.

★

PORTUGAL'S planned and merited 0-0 draw at Wembley did much to lift the gloom which had descended on Jose Maria Pedroto and his new-look team after their three clear goal defeat in Switzerland.

How much of the defensive success of the match was due to the twin pivotal exhibition given by Alhinho (Sporting) and Humberto Coelho (Benfica) is not wholly obvious but rarely have two centre backs commanded the air as they did at Wembley.

In a packed midfield area none did better than the gloved Alves one-time Benfica player and now with Boavista, Pedroto's club.

Up front Nene ploughed a lonely furrow for Portugal but showed courage and skill in keeping a couple of English

..PORTUGAL

DECIDE

defenders in tow when he did get some service.

It was Portugal's 13th game against England but it was certainly not unlucky for them, even though they have won only once against this particular opposition. It was also the 185th full international for the Portuguese who have won 66 times, drawn 36 and lost 83, for a goal average of 277-326.

However, number 13 proved unlucky for the Under-23 side the previous day. It was their 13th match overall and England beat them 3-2, quite deservedly.

Changed

For the first time in many years the full Portuguese team which played England did not contain any players from the colonies. And this may be a signpost for the future, too, as since the political climate has changed dramatically in recent months with independence uppermost in the minds of people from Mozambique and Angola. Players from these places may well be heading back there one day soon.

Of the First Division clubs there are seven from Mozambique and 12 from Angola and many, many more in the lower divisions. Best known Mozambiques are Eusebio (Benfica), Abel (Porto), and Rui Rodrigues (Vitoria Guimaraes) while from Angola come players like Dinis (Sporting), Jordao (Benfica), and Freitas (Belenenses).

Pressed

In the championship Benfica and Porto continue to make the running but are being well pressed by the revelations of the season Vitoria Guimaraes. Porto retained top spot on goal average after beating Tomar 5-1 away, while Benfica's 2-0 win at home against Vitoria Setubal leaves them also with 18 points from 11 matches. Guimaraes held on to third place after beating Atletico Lisbon 4-1 away.

Hector Yazalde is top scorer with 11 goals followed by the Brazilian winger of Guimaraes, Jeremias with 10.

England's Allan Clarke towers over Osvaldinho of Portugal at Wembley but England didn't do well.

European League review
See pages 46-47

Luxemburg crash

LUXEMBURG after a creditable performance for one half against Hungary which left them at 2-2 before finally losing 4-2, they crashed heavily at Swansea against Wales by five clear goals.

The plight of the national side would be even worse but for the steady release of several exiles in neighbouring countries, notably France and Belgium for international duty.

Dateline Diary . . . Dateline Diary . . .

Bransch out, UEFA penalties, Malta agree, Swiss beaten

NOVEMBER 14

EAST BERLIN: East German captain Bernd Bransch has a run of 45 consecutive appearances broken by injury. He suffered a torn tendon and gashed left ankle against Scotland and misses the European Championship clash with France in Paris.

NOVEMBER 15

BANGKOK: China defeated Thailand 2-0 at the National Stadium before 15,000 spectators. Earlier China beat a combined Thailand side 3-2. Chinese scorers were Jung and Li Chou.

NOVEMBER 16

PARIS: Two late goals by Guillou and Gallice saved France from defeat against East Germany after the visitors had taken a 2-0 lead through Sparwasser and Kreische.

NOVEMBER 17

STUTTGART: Real Madrid drew 1-1 with VfB Stuttgart before 40,000 in a friendly. Ohlicher scored from the spot to give the Germans the lead but Santillana equalised in 38 minutes. Germans Breitner and Netzer starred for Real.

NOVEMBER 20

BERNE: UEFA announced penalties totalling £9,150 on seven clubs for violence on the field and in the crowd. Eleven players received suspensions ranging from one to six matches. Terry Mancini (Eire) received a four match ban.

ATHENS: West Germany the European Championship holders were held to a 2-2 draw by Greece.

IZMIR: The Republic of Ireland drew 1-1 with Turkey in the European Championship. An own goal by Terry Conroy gave the Turks the lead but Don Givens equalised.

WEMBLEY: Portugal surprised England by drawing 0-0 at the Empire Stadium before 85,000 disappointed spectators. England created few clear cut chances and the Portuguese defended well in depth.

ROTTERDAM: Holland beat Italy 3-1 in the European Championship after surviving a goal against them in five minutes by Roberto Boninsegna. Robby Rensenbrink equalised before half-time and two goals from Johan Cruyff finally sunk the Italians.

NOVEMBER 21

ROTTERDAM: UEFA announced that European soccer girls will have to wait for their own competition. Though they admitted that women's soccer was increasing and was now played in 16 European countries, it was still early for their own competition. West Germany already has 169,000 registered players.

NOVEMBER 24

SINGAPORE: The Russian Olympic team beat Singapore 3-0, having the previous day beaten a Singapore selection 1-0.

NOVEMBER 26

ZURICH: FIFA announced a meeting next April in Monaco to discuss problems affecting the game and its future.

FRANKFURT: Malta has agreed to play its European Championship fixture with West Germany in Valetta on December 22 a week before the original date to allow the German players a longer holiday break. UEFA has still to confirm it.

WIESBADEN: Helmut Schoen had a knee operation; his third cartilage was removed on his left knee. The other two were taken out during his playing days with Dresden teams.

NOVEMBER 27

DAR ES SALAAM: Two Russian players were sent off for rough play when Minsk Dynamo were beaten by Tanzanian champions Young Africans 3-2.

NEW YORK: James McGuire, President of the US Soccer Federation and a one-time Scottish youth international died after a heart attack at the age of 64.

BARCELONA: Barcelona celebrated their 75th anniversary by beating East Germany 2-1 before 60,000. Sotil and Cruyff scored for Barcelona after Rigirrer had opened the scoring for East Germany.

ASUNCION: Paraguay will apply to stage the first World Cup of the 21st century in 2002. They said that within 28 years they would be able to organise a sporting event of this size.

HONG KONG: Pele arrived here from Tokyo on a tour of the Far East and said he was considering invitations from European countries to play in charity games. He is devoting his spare time to coaching children at football clinics.

NOVEMBER 29

BELGRADE: Hajduk Split won the Yugoslav Cup for the third time defeating Borac Banja Luka 1-0 in the final.

NOVEMBER 30

SYDNEY: Australian Soccer Federation officials said that the English Pool Promoters had entered a new 10 year agreement for Australian results.

BANGKOK: The Russian Olympic team beat a Bangkok combined team 1-0 with a goal from Petr Slabodian in the 31st minute.

DECEMBER 1

IZMIR: Turkey beat Switzerland 2-1 in a European Championship match. Ismail and Buyuk Mehmet scored for Turkey after Schild had given the Swiss an early lead before 60,000 spectators.

ROME: Tomaso Maestrelli, trainer of Lazio was injured by a stone thrown from the crowd before the First Division game between Lazio and Roma the local rivals. Lazio lost 1-0.

DECEMBER 2

BRAZZAVILLE: Renaissance Aiglon of Congo beat Mehalla of Egypt 4-2 in the first leg of their African Clubs Cup Final.

MUNICH: Udo Lattek the trainer of Bayern Munich is to leave his post as coach at the end of the season. Bayern are 14th out of 18 Bundesliga clubs. Shortly afterwards VfB Stuttgart announced that their trainer Hermann Eppenhoff had been sacked with immediate effect. A few weeks ago Wupperial axed their manager.

RAY OF HOPE FOR HUNGARY

"YOU lose a few and you lose a few more," has been the locanic slogan during the first half of the season in Budapest. The performances of the national team have been so insipid and uninspiring, that the public have lost faith in the players' ability to turn the corner. But the last couple of games, however, brought about a slight improvement, which might be a launching pad for better things in the spring.

First Hungary travelled to Varna to face the equally down-trodden, duller-than-ever Bulgarians. Ferenc Bene was brought back again — in midfield! — Jozself Toth of Pecs was selected at left-back, and Mate of Ferencvaros took over the left-wing spot from Nagy.

It is worth noting that Bene's selection was recommended by the FA hierarchy, because —to quote — "his past service to the country justifies him getting 75 caps". As the balding "Ferike" had only played in 70 internationals, according to this staggeringly silly reasoning, he was entitled to five more outings. Why five? Why not more if he plays well enough? And why even one more if he doesn't deserve a place?

Scandal

Such illogical decisions reflect the thinking of the administration — no wonder that Hungarian football is "sick" (more about that little scandal next month.

In front of a meagre 8,000 crowd, Hungary defended stoutly — too stoutly in fact. Balint retaliated against Denev and was sent off in the 30th minute. But the ten-man brigade held out to an honourable 0-0 draw, and newcomers Toth, Janos Nagy and Mucha were praised for effort beyond the call of duty.

A few weeks later Switzerland were the visitors at Szolnok, a smallish provincial town about 100 km. from Budapest. The 22-year-old Tatabanya player, Karoly Csapo was capped for the first time in this match, and Horvath (Dozsa) took the place of the suspended Balint in the defence. In the 42nd minute, a Swiss defender fell over in the penalty box, his hand inadvertently touched the ball, and the Austrian ref obligingly awarded a spot-kick. Fazekas scored and the Magyar's were home and dry — 1-0.

So, of the five matches played during the current season, Hungary won two (Luxembourg, Switzerland), drew one (Bulgaria), and lost two (Austria, Wales). An average record against average opposition. Oh mediocrity, thou should be blessed!

Mercifully, the league season has come to an end, and now the powers that be have time to re-think their grand design for the future. The mad, unnecessary, self-defeating fixture congestion must be scrapped, the meaningless tournaments abolished, and time must be allowed for the national team to prepare properly for their European Championship matches. Dozsa, as expected, sailed through the autumn undefeated. They are not-so-hotly pursued by Honved, with Ferencvaros further behind. Csepel and Videoton are in contention for a place on the rostrum, and the other 11 clubs are fighting against relegation.

UJPEST DOZSA (28 points). The champions dropped only two points in 15 matches. Coach Pal Varhidi seems to have the knack of bringing along younger players who can slot smoothly into the team. Sarlos, Torocsik and goalkeeper Szigethi are the latest products of the excellent Dozsa youth scheme. Horvath and Fazakas have

by Leslie Vernon

been playing particularly well, and Bene is top scorer with 12. Zambo is a fading star, and sadly, there is no room in the team for the 31-year-old Antal Dunai.

HONVED (24 points). The 31-9 goal difference shows that Dr Lakat's leadership has tightened the Army team's defence without diminishing scoring potential. It has been their best "half-season" for some time, and if they could convert their chances with more consistency, Honved might threaten Dozsa's domination of the championship. Kozma with 13 is the leading scorer, but both young Fehervari and Sandor Pinter are dangerous forwards. Szucs has been reliable in defence, and goalkeeper Gujdar has earned his place in the Under-23 squad.

FERENCVAROS (20 points). Jeno Dalnoki is building a new, young Fradi. If they do take their football seriously, players like Onhaus, Rab, Takacs, Szabo andMucha could develop into international-class players. I am certainly optimistic about the green-and-white's future, although this season, they might have to be satisfied with bronze medals. With the help of a favourable draw, they could make further progress in the Cup Winners' Cup.

CSEPEL (18 points). After years of dull mid-table security, new coach Antal Thomann has revitalised the side. The younger, more ambitious players, have no inferiority complexes when facing the crack sides, and this works team attached to a huge combine on the outskirts of Budapest, are poised for a challenge to break into the top-three.

Interest

Of the provincial sides, the two promoted clubs, Diosgyor (15 points) and Bekescsaba (14 points) did extremely well, and the signs are that they will stay in Division I. Videoton have had a disappointing run, culminating in a 5-0 defeat at Gyor. But it is sad to see Vasas (11 points) and Tatabanya (ten points) down amongst the strugglers. Vasas are still troubled by internal tensions — several of the players just would not buckle down and work for the common interest.

Offence

Bela Varadi, a headstrong character (let's be polite) has once again been suspended for a disciplinary offence, and it is a well-known fact that Komjati, Muller and a few others, also know "what their right arm is for"! Tatabanya, coached by the progressive Jozsef Gelei, finished at the bottom of the class. One only hopes that this fine young manager won't get discouraged, and will be allowed to continue in a job which he earned by being assistant to former boss Lakat for two years.

Attendance figures were not too encouraging — the public has lost interest. Dozsa — six times champions remember — had a 3,500 gate at their last home match, and the once popular MTK play in front of pitiful 2,000 "crowds".

Only Ferencvaros, Zalaegerszeg and Bekescsaba are able to draw more than 10,000 people away from their TV sets. Football is still the most talked about subject in Hungary, but unless standards (and results!) improve dramatically, less and less people will actually bother to go and watch it.

ERIC THORNTON looks at two contra

KIDD SETT

BRIAN KIDD is having a go for Arsenal. And all the signs and portents indicate that this thoughtful 24-year-old could develop into not only one of the best purchases this famous club has made in the post-war era, but also a fans idol to line up alongside all those other legendary figures who thrilled and pleased in turn through the decades.

A tremendous forecast? I really don't think so. For the temperament and physique and skill are just what the doctor ordered, and, what is almost equally important, the player is happy once again, which is an unsolicited tribute to Bert Mee and the Arsenal system.

It had never appeared likely to even a close circle of friends that Brian, the local boy who became a star in his own rights, would one day quit their very own scene. Yet, suddenly, and to the surprise of the terraces, the loyalties were changed with a mere scratch of the pen, though not the colours.

Folk wondered about the future. Because every time a boy pulls up the roots, packs the home, and takes to the road, a club gambles on a new signing settling in as quickly as possible for extracting the earliest of benefits.

Very often, big money has been thrown down the drain with new boys regretting a move, and, consequently, failing to find the kind of form which had made them attractive market propositions even at a six-figure range.

It always seems to have been the same. Between the wars, there was the spotlighted case of England defender Bert Sproston. He went from Leeds to Spurs, but missed home cooking, and, therefore, was quickly transferred back north with best wishes from White Hart Lane.

Sickness

Stan Bowles knew all about the same sickness immediately after the hike from Carlisle to Q.P.R., and Francis Lee was only coaxed into joining Derby County because of being allowed to continue living near his beloved Bolton.

Some had very serious doubts about the wisdom of the Manchester United star's transition to London, arguing, and probably rightly, that the boy had never been far from his own stamping ground, and could have difficulty learning to live a new and "foreign" life.

They were wrong. So very wrong. And in the opinion of the particular subject all those sharing that fear were way out because of those two vital factors I mentioned earlier—the Arsenal boss, and the club's system.

In the first place, Brian says this of our old friend Bertie Mee: "He has got just about everything a soccer boss should have, and nothing at all seems to much trouble for him, whatever day a problem might be dropped on his lap."

Then, this youngster whom the Stretford Enders so often cheered, adds: "He was always exceptionally good about arranging time off so that it was possible to slip back home while the wife was awaiting our second child, and we were also preparing for moving into another home the club had provided for us."

Then there's the Arsenal system. It attends to the spare-time life of its professionals while also introducing the friendlier touch. One good idea provides for every Gunner to automatically become a member of the South Herts Golf Club, which former Ryder Cup captain Dai Rees made famous as its professional, and is within comfy distance of Highbury's country training headquarters.

Brian was worried at first about golfing facilities, knowing the usual difficulty one experiences in joining a new club, especially those situated in the Home Counties. So Arsenal's strong connection immediately solved that particular problem for a fellow who is extremely useful at that game, too.

Oakes stays h

THIS is the story of a footballer who has stayed at home, and seen 'em all come and go. Very definitely dozens of managers, internationals, and other topliners. And many with operatic temperaments which flared and subsided in dressing rooms accustomed to theatricals over the long years.

Don Revie and Roy Paul were just going their opposite ways after two great Cup periods in the same decade, when the local boy who was to make good began an apprenticeship stretching through all the four reserve line-ups of Manchester City —Alan Oakes, son of a Cheshire farming community.

It's difficult to imagine a quieter yet more dedicated professional than this six-footer with the permanent promise of a smile hovering around the eyes. Now reaching up to 33 years of age, he has just set an example to every soccer-mad kid by breaking all club appearance records.

The seasonal charts reveal that the home loving Oakes, who has been a one-clubber throughout a lifetime in the game, is now towards a fantastic 600 mark, having chalked up 500 last year, and then begun the chase after the all time high of the 508 credited to the great Bert Trautmann.

It's true to say they don't come any better than this shy but extremely capable defender of the early days of such 'capped' clubmates as Bobby Johnstone, Jimmy McAdams, Derek Kevan, Jimmy Murray, Johnny Crossan, Denis Law, and later, Francis Lee, Colin Bell and Mike Summerbee.

It's equally correct to opine that no-one —yes, no-one—possesses better ability to ride the storm or enjoy the successes of the game, as he has adequately proved both to the fans and himself during the sixties and the seventies.

Trouble

He knew the depression of 1963, when a giant blanket of crepe was thrown over Maine Road, and everybody blamed everybody else. And a string of unfortunate reverses ended with supporters protesting outside the famous ground while police dogs and their handlers were on duty in case of trouble.

On the other hand, there were also the wonderful occasions of the triumphant and exciting marches to the League championship, and the finals of the FA Cup, League Cup, European Cup Winners Cup, and what-have-you.

I'll bet his mind swung back to those pleasant days when the directors marked the 500th game with the presentation of an inscribed silver salver, and the players handed over their special token of esteem in the shape of a gold watch which will time the rest of his days.

Consistency should be the middle name because, as you'll no doubt guess from the colossal appearance sheet in the secretary's office, only injuries have kept him on the sidelines. Never poor performances.

Yet, peculiarly, the game's top honours have somehow never reached this strong tackler. Which is surprising because the folk who know more than a thing or two have always provided a high rating. But it's a fact that an England 'cap' is still missing from an impressive personal collection of awards.

Yet neither he nor cousin Glyn Pardoe, who was another schoolboy recruit from the same part of the world but suffered the

...sing football personalities from Manchester

...TLES DOWN

Another good feature of the north London organisation that greatly appeals to him, and all the rest of the staff, is the introduction of smaller dressing rooms around the practice ground which enables everybody to get to know each other better and quicker.

Old Joe Mercer used to tell me, shortly after saying goodbye to Everton and the family business on the Wirral, that Arsenal were always great in post-signing friendliness and efficiency. Here is continuing evidence.

First-team

Looking back to Old Trafford—his first and only previous club—Brian reckons that there were nearly two wasted years while moving in and out of the League team. Yet, even so, he was not prepared to leave until an equally important outfit came along and, additionally, offered a first-team spot without regular queueing.

After all, when that move south materialised, Kidd made it as a player whose considerable experience included partnering the one-and-only George Best in top form, and scoring one of the goals which beat Benfica, at Wembley, in 1968, and won the European Cup for Manchester United.

...ome

setback of a broken leg in a "Derby" fixture, worry about missed gongs.

Certainly not Alan, who came up the hard way under managers of completely different styles and ambitions, and during a time when the club was turned inside out with new boards being formed and re-formed.

It was Les McDowall who gave him the first taste of the big game under the watchful and experienced eye of Freddie Tilson, who had been leading the England attack before the boy was even a twinkle in his father's eye.

Then George Poyser, an inheritance from Notts County, next had charge, and was rather quickly followed by such contrasting experts as Joe Mercer, Malcolm Allison, Johnny Hart, Ron Saunders, and, finally, ex-skipper Tony Book, the former Bath bricklayer who made a late entry into League football, and is presently occupant of one of the hottest seats in the business.

It may be that the loyal servant will be given a staff job himself when playing retirement comes around, but, as Alan says: "The boss was playing at 39, and I feel just as fit as ever, so you never know how long I may go on playing."

Ayala of Atletico Madrid in action against De la Cruz of Barcelona (left).

Keir Radnedge

Continued from page 27

Breitner attacked outside dressing rooms at Celta...

Bernabeu himself while on loan to Oviedo, and Bernabeu was aghast when he learned soon after that Luis had sent to Betis of Seville in part exchange for attacking wing half Isidro Sanchez.

Isidro's plight—he is in danger of losing his sight—is another story, but that move away from Madrid, his home city, meant everything for Luis. With Betis he blossomed into a highly-dangerous centre forward, and just over ten years ago Atletico brought him back to Madrid for good.

He continued for several years as a spearhead—and was the Lealve's top scorer with 16 goals in 1970. Then, predictably, he slipped back into midfield as he slowed down, but he still had all the guile necessary to produce a masterful performance in the Champions' Cup Final against Bayern. His remarkable right-angled free kick past Sepp Maier even brought Atletico within an ace of victory, but when it came to a replay two days later he was far too tired to reproduce the magic and Atletico went under. Now he has a chance to show what he can do as a manager in Atletico's most difficult period for a long time.

That's not to say that neighbours Real haven't had problems as well, despite sitting—apparently—pretty at the top of the table and making steady progress in the Cup Winners Cup.

Paul Breitner, for one, has certainly had a most bizarre introduction to Spanish football.

He scored in his first league game, led Real unbeaten to the top of the first division, and was then attacked outside the dressing rooms by two opponents after a 3-3 away draw with Celta de Vigo.

"Nothing like that has ever happened to me before," said the frizzy-haired 23-year-old who made his name as an attacking left back but who, in point of fact, plays in midfield for Real alongside Gunter Netzer.

The trouble all began towards the end of a stormy game which wasn't far from a repeat of last year when two players were sent off and eight booked. With Real hanging on at 3-3, all their goals coming from the tireless Pirri, the ball ran out of play for a throw-in to Real.

Breitner, instead of picking the ball up immediately, deliberately waited for a ball boy to run 30 yards to hand him the ball, and two beer cans came hurtling out from the crowd by way of protest. The final whistle went shortly afterwards and the Real players were given a police escort back towards the safety of the dressing rooms.

But that was not far enough. In the corridor outside Breitner was set on by two Celta players and was virtually unconscious by the time his team-mates had realised what was going on and had been able to rescue him.

One happier note for Real—the return to league duty of Amancio, whose recovery from the thigh injury which threatened to end his career I reported in World Soccer last month.

Amancio scored in a comeback friendly (won 5-1) against Nimes, and then came on late in the game for Macanas during the 3-0 victory over FK Austria in the Cup Winners Cup first leg. And, as if that wasn't enough, he returned to the league side just in time for the 5-0 thrashing of Espanol, up until then joint leaders.

Amancio was substituted with nine minutes to go, but by that time he had not only scored Real's third goal, but done more than enough to earn the accolade of "The best player in Europe," from coach Miljan Miljanic after the match.

Amancio, of course, is not the only happy Spaniard at the moment. Jose Angel Iribar, the Bilbao goalkeeper, has something to be proud of—for against Scotland he equalled Ricardo Zamora's record of 46 caps, and Spain's achievement in winning 2-1 at Hampden should help cheer Iribar a little after the dismal start to the season Athletic Bilbao have made.

After eight matches Bilbao, with six points and virtually at the foot of the table could have done themselves a favour by beating Celta in Vigo. Instead they lost 1-0, to find themselves level on points with Celta and just one ahead of bottom club, Malaga.

International Post-Mortem

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No luck for Gerry Francis (9) against Alhinho of Portugal in the 0-0 draw at Wembley.

France 2 East Germany 2

IF THE DDR blotted their copy book when they dropped a home point to little Iceland (1-1) they took off at the Parc des Princes in Paris determined to obtain an away win that would help restore the balance in what now looks like a straight fight between the DDR and Belgium.

France, whose fans have been led to believe that former Ajax boss Stefan Kovacs would transform their national team, can only console themselves with the thought that their team doesn't give up. For all that it looked at one stage in this game that the DDR were sailing to a clear victory and in any event, Kovacs like Revie in England and others elsewhere, cannot make bricks without straw. If the necessary, highly-skilled players are not there—goodbye.

George Buschner, the DDR boss, drew up a flexible but nonetheless defensive scheme for the trip to Paris and turned to Dynamo Dresden (who provided four men) for the backbone of his team. Playing 1-3-4-2 with the Magdeburg strikers Jurgen Sparwasser and Martin Hoffmann upfield; Hans-Jurgen Kreische, the midfield general and Hans-Jurgen Dorner the *libero* coming from Dresden along with Hafner and Watzlich.

A capacity crowd roared approval early on as the French carried the game towards Croy in the DDR goal but the counter-attacking Germans had more real chances. After 25 minutes Sparwasser put them ahead after receiving a fine pass from Lauck that split the French stoppers and left him clear. More French pressure followed but the score was still 0-1 at the break and for the second half Gallice (Bordeaux) came on at centre forward for his first cap.

Twelve minutes into the second half Kreische made it 2-0 for the DDR, getting his 25th international goal (in 47 games) following good play on the left by Hafner who set him up to score. It now looked odds-on for the DDR but in the 80th minute Guillou decieved Croy to squeeze one between the goalkeeper and his near post and right on time Bereta took a free kick, whacking the ball into the penalty area for Gallice to convert it.

France (0) 2 (Guillou, Gallice)
East Germany (1) 2 (Sparwasser, Kreische)

France: Bertrand-Demanes; Jordan, Trossat, Adams, Bracci, Michel (Synaeghel), Huck, Guillou, Soler, Coste (Gallice), Bereta.
East Germany: Croy; Kische, Dorner, Weise, Watzlich, Kurbjuweit, Lauck, Hafner, Kreische (Seguin), Sparwasser, Hoffmann.

Switzerland 3 Portugal 0

A 20,000 CROWD at the Wankdorf Stadion in Berne saw the pseudo-amateur Swiss take Portugal to the cleaners with Jeandupeux opening the scoring after only eight minutes and Pfister adding a second shortly before the break.

Jeandupeux might have had a hat trick and several other chances went begging and a third goal from Schild just after the hour gave the Swiss one of their easiest victories for years.

With the benefit of hindsight it now seems that the Portuguese approached this game determined to hoodwink England manager Don Revie who was amongst the spectators. True they made four changes at Wembley but in Berne there was no sign of the massed defence, an off-side trap or the keep-ball tactics which combined to baffle England.

Either this was a deliberate put up job by Portuguese boss Pedroto to send Revie home with an easy mind or he worked a miracle in 7 days by changing his team and his tactics to draw at Wembley. Either way, full marks to Pedroto.

Switzerland (2) 3 (Jeandupeux, Pfister, Schild, pen.)
Portugal (0) 0

Switzerland: Burgener; Valentini, Guyot, Bizzini, Botterin, Schild, Hasler, Schneeberger, Pfister (Risi), Jeandupeux, Muller (Ratschmann).
Portugal: Damas (Tibi); Artur, Humberto, Barros, Oswaldinho, Octavio, Martins (Teixeira), Alves (Chico), Nene, Oliveira, Romeu.

Greece 2 West Germany 2

THE Greeks recalled two veterans for this important game, 32-year-old mid-field general Dimitrios Domazos and centre forward Mimis Papaioannou (33) who as a header of the ball has been as electric and skilful as was Denis Law.

With a nice blend of youth and experience the Greeks had the Germans in a lot of trouble, twice went ahead through Delikaris (13 minutes) and after Cullmann had equalised in the second half Elefterakis (70 minutes).

Paul Breitner (in Spain), Rainer Bonhof (suspended from league games for two months) and Overath, the last two from midfield were German changes from the World Cup Final team but their real problems were in attack. Herbert Wimmer, replacing his clubmate Bonhof, headed an equalising goal with only seven minutes left, but all West Germany seems convinced that Gerd Muller must be persuaded to change his mind and play again for Deutchland.

Holzenbein, who played as the central striker, is not the kind of spearhead needed, prefering to come from deep positions and Heynckes is now almost a natural left winger, playing there for his club, Muller it seems is the only answer.

Greece (1) 2 (Delikaris, Eleftherakis)
West Germany (0) 2 (Cullmann, Wimmer)

Greece: Ikonomopoulos; Kyrastas, Siokos, Glezos (Firos), Ioannidis, Tersanidis, Domazos, Eleftherakis, Sarafis, Delikaris, Papaioannou (Adanidis).
West Germany: Maier; Vogts, Beckenbauer, Schwarzenbeck, Helmut Kremers, Wimmer, Hoeness, Cullmann (Kapellmann), Geye, Holzenbein, Heynckes (Pirrung).

Holland 3 Italy 1

ITALIAN team manager Fulvio Bernardini is clearly trying to build a new younger team to replace the side that cracked at the seams and fell apart during the World Cup. But knowing that he needs an experienced backbone for the side he has invited controversy (and got it) by omitting the one time super stars Gianni Rivera and Sandro Mazzola while fielding two other players, Roberto Boninsegna and Antonio Juliano who are just as old.

Making his position even more difficult, Italy have lost both games under his guidance, suggesting to the man in the street that there has been no improvement.

Gay life

On the other hand, Bernardini's opposite number in this game, Georg Knobel who quit the Ajax job because he alleged the players were more interested in the gay life than playing football, seems to be getting more from the players at national level than he did in Amsterdam.

Wisely, Knobel has not interfered with the team created by Rinus Michels for the World Cup—his only change was to include PSV's scoring star (15 goals in 11 league games) in midfield in place of Jansen. A crowd of 62,000 saw this match in Rotterdam compared with the 9,000 odd who paid to see the recent friendly against Switzerland. This suggest that Dutch fans either don't want friendly internationals or will only pay to see their super-heroes Cruyff and Nesskens.

● Continued overleaf

Dismal England

For more than an hour it seemed possible that Italy (and Bernardini) would get away with at least a draw. Within four minutes Boninsegna put Italy in front with a header but the Dutchmen were level through Rob Rensenbrink (24th minute) and it was two second-half goals, the first after 65 minutes that settled the issue in Holland's favour.

The first Cruyff goal followed a free kick by Suurbier that was headed out by a defender and chipped back in from the left, touched on by Rensenbrink to Cruyff who scored from what the Italians claimed was an off-side position. Russian referee Pavel Kasakov said 'niet' and with 12 minutes left, Suurbier again instigated a goal, moving up on the right to play a 1-2, going in to draw goalkeeper Zoff before squaring the ball to Cruyff who side-footed the ball home

Holland (1) 3 (Rensenbrink, Cruyff 2)
Italy (1) 1 (Boninsegna)

Holland: Jongbloed; Suurbier, Haan, Rijsbergen, Krol, Van der Kuylen, Neeskens, Van Hanegem, Rep (Willy van Der Kerkhof), Cruyff, Rensenbrink.

Italy: Zoff; Rocca, Zecchini, Orlandini, Reggi, Juliano, Morini, Antognoni, Causio, Boninsegna, Anastasi.

England 0 Portugal 0

A point from a visit to Wembley is an achievement denied most teams in competitive games and rarely can the English have given one away as generously as they did in this game. As a unit the Portuguese gave a spirited performance that belied their record over the last two years and suggests that their new manager Jose Maria Pedroto can keep his job—if he wants it—for the foreseeable future.

Goalkeeper Damas was called on to make one or two saves but was never really extended, partly because of the fine showing in the air and on the ground by the visiting twin stoppers Humberto and Alhinho.

Playing England at their own game—an over-populated midfield but demonstrating a great deal more patience and skill in retaining possession than the English—the ball was kept away from Humberto and Alhinho for long periods. When England did press an attack beyond midfield the ball rebounded monotonously from the twin stoppers who also kept their heads and by pushing good balls out into midfield helped prevent England piling on the pressure.

Perhaps the critical factor that destroyed England as an attacking force was the offside trap the visitors erected and which proved beyond the understanding of the England attack.

England demonstrated once more that work-rate, long speculative passes and high crosses are not enough to achieve success at top level and even Colin Bell, who has matured so much in recent matches, failed to reveal his current form. That power and the straight for goal approach still dominates the England XI was demonstrated late in the game when England were awarded a free kick close to Portugal's penalty area.

● Continued from previous page

Trevor Brooking (who has skill and can turn and bend the ball) prepared to take the kick but was brushed aside by Hughes—the captain—whose kick came to nothing.

Until players are told . . . and fully understand . . . that it is the Brooking's and Bell's who should dominate the game then perhaps England do not deserve to succeed.

England (0) 0
Portugal (0) 0

England: Clemence; Madeley, Watson, Hughes, Cooper (Todd), Brooking, Francis, Bell, Thomas, Channon, Clarke (Worthington).

Portugal: Damas; Artur, Humberto, Alhinho, Ovaldinho, Teixeira, Alves, Octavio, Martins, Nene (Romeu), Chico (Oliveira.

Scotland 1 Spain 2

LADISLAV Kubala the Spanish team manager kept up his creditable record of the last five years—won 16 and lost only 3 from 28 games—and after a shaky start saw his team move into the favourites position in their group having won two games, both away. A draw away to Rumania could give Spain this group and restore Kubala's position that was somewhat undermined when Yugoslavia put them out of the World Cup.

In Glasgow it was the approved modern formula that brought this victory—a well organised, tightly packed defence blended with tenacity and tackling that matched the Scots and went too far at times . . . five players being cautioned.

In attack the Spaniards fielded a two-pronged spearhead, Real Madrid's Argentinian born Roberto Martinez and Quini, who was Spain's First Division top scorer last season with 20 goals, for little known Real Gijon.

If Scotland employ similar tactics away to Spain they could yet recover but the result will be two matches that will please only hard line supporters of the successful side and bang another nail in the coffin of football as an entertainment.

Fumbled

Early on at Hampden the Scots had Spain on the floor. After only ten minutes goalkeeper Iribar (earning his 47th cap and passing the record of Spain's pre-war super-keeper Zamora) fumbled the ball from a header by Deans and Bremner following up, scored from close in. At the 20 minute mark the Scots could have sewn it up when Hutchison took a penalty awarded for handling by Migueli but his shot was saved by Iribar.

Scotland might have had other goals but it was Quini who stole the show after the penalty miss. Spain, broke away through Castellanos whose cross was converted by the Gijon star. This was at the 35 minute mark and did much to restore the Spaniards confidence. In the second half play became ragged and Quini again was in the right place to score the winning goal after goalkeeper Harvey had imitated Iribar and failed to hold a ball that should have stuck.

Scotland (1) 1 (Bremner)
Spain (1) 2 (Quini 2)

Scotland: Harvey; Jardine, Forsyth, McQueen, Burns, Bremner, Souness, Hutchison (Dalglish), Johnstone, Deans (Lorimer), Jordan.

Spain: Iribar; Castellanos, Benito, Costas, Capon, Miguell (Sol), Villar, Planas, Roberto, Martinez, Quini, Rexach.

Wales 5 Luxembourg 0

LUXEMBOURG put up a brave show at home to Hungary recently but with the present state of the Hungarian game in mind and remembering how easily Wales demolished them too much should not be read into that performance. Indeed Luxembourg were arguably weaker for their visit to Wales though the experienced centre back Louis Pilot returned to the side.

Pilot and the goalkeeper Lucien Thill, who saved a penalty before the scoring started—a header from Reece being handled off the line by Da Grava—were the only players who looked at all capable of holding their own in a largely aerial battle . . . British style.

Gilbert Legrand, the Luxembourg manager, had problems enough even before the match began. Early in the season, players from the champion club Jeuresse Esch failed to turn up for an international squad training session and were suspended for four league games by the FA but the incident has left its mark.

Experienced

Without the experienced Jean-Pierre Hoffmann and the striker Nico Braun (playing in France) the game was almost a walk-over for Wales before it began.

Though Wales is small enough when thinking in world terms, little Luxembourg has a population comparable with that of Cardiff and inevitably, playing away from home the traffic was all one way—towards Thill's goal.

Mahoney put up another industrious performance; Leighton James was once more the most skilful player afield and it was Toshack's head that broke the deadlock when he opened the scoring after 36 minutes—from a cross by Reece. For almost an hour the Welshmen were limited to that single goal, underlining the fact that the Welsh are far from being a good side but when the legs of the Luxembourg players began to go, Thill could do no more.

Welsh back-four men England and Roberts went upfield to score with shots and Griffiths got the fourth from a cross by James. With fifteen minutes left for play Yorath completed the scoring and Welsh hopes of qualifying from what is probably the easiest group in the European championship now hinge on the visit of Austria.

Wales (1) 5 (Toshack, England, Roberts, Griffiths, Yorath)
Luxembourg (0) 0

Wales: Sprake; Thomas, England, Roberts, Phillips, Mahoney (Flynn), Yorath, Griffiths, James, Reece, Toshack.

Luxembourg: Thill; Pandel, Fleghi, Hansen, Da Grava (Romer), Trierweiler, Pilot, Zuang, Langers (Martin), Dessier, Phillip.

Dave Thomas (left), Dave Watson, Gerry Francis and Peter Shilton in training for England.

Turkey 1 Eire 1

WITH an entire team drawn from clubs in the English Football League, the republic of Ireland appear to be benefiting from the experiences of their player-manager Johnny Giles in his European campaigns for Leeds United. After winning 3-0 at home to the Soviet Union, Eire travelled to Izmir to achieve a 1-1 draw away to Turkey, which in European Cup terms means mission accomplished.

With players drawn from Second and Third Division clubs as well as reserve team players it would be remarkable if this Republic of Ireland team, comparable perhaps to an England C XI should qualify for the quarter finals of the European championship while England and Scotland failed. Before Eire gained this valuable point away to Turkey and both England and Scotland failed to win at home such a feat would have seemed impossible. Now the odds must be considerably shorter.

Consolidating

Eire's play was in the classic defend in strength and counter attack mould now consolidating the positions of managers everywhere but accentuating the drift of spectators away from watching football. Giles himself played far deeper in this match than he usually does.

Turkey dominated almost throughout the game but it was not until ten minutes after the interval that they opened the scoring. Even then it was an error by Conroy who headed into his own goal that gave Turkey a lead that didn't last for long.

Though little was seen of the Irishmen in attack, Don Givens the Queens Park Rangers striker who took all three goals in the victory over the Russians in Dublin, levelled the scores within five minutes. Breaking out quickly following a Turkish attack, a pass from Giles evaded the Turkish rearguard and Givens through on his own, drew Turkish goalkeeper Yasin out of his goal before slipping the ball past him.

After that, all Turkey's efforts to re-establish themselves came to nothing and they had to be satisfied with one point.

Turkey (0) 1 (Conroy, o.g.)
Eire (0) 1 (Givens)

Turkey: Yasir; Alpaslan, Ziya, Ismail, Zekeriya, Engin, Selcuk, Fuji Mehmet (Osman), Buyuk Mehmet, Cemil, Metin.
Eire: Roche; Kinnear, Mulligan, Hand, Dunne, Brady, Martin, Giles, Heighway, Conroy (Donnehy), Givens.

Mexico (0) 3 (De la Torre, Horacio Lopez 2)
USA (0) 1 (Vaninger)

Mexico: Calderon; Trujillo, Pena (Santoyo), Ramos Sanchez, Galindo, Gonzalez, Manzo, De la Torre, Diaz (Angulano), Horacio Lopez, Ramahn (Damian).
USA: Feaver; D'Errico, Demline, Barto, Roth, Smith, Trost, Matteson, Robotsoof, Vaninger, Hernandez.

USA (0) 0
Mexico (1) 1 (Trujillo)

USA: Rigby; De Rico, Barto, Roth, Demline, Smith, Matteson, Trost, Vaninger, Rote, Hernandez.
Mexico: Calderon; Trujillo, Pena (Santoyo), Ramos, Sanchez Galindo, Gonzalez, Manzo, De la Torre (Chavez), Angulano, Horacio Lopez, Damian (Jimenez).

● Continued from page 28

at the moment. They include Jack Brand who was the back up man on the European trip, Bill Craig, the national youth team goalkeeper, and Alan Lary who played in England in August with the Ontario Under 21 team.

The back four seems to be set for the moment with Chris Horrocks, Kevin Grant, Sam Lenarduzzi and Bruce Wilson, while in midfield Jim Douglas, Brian Robinson and Bob Bolitho are currently the number one choices, but there is room for improvement in this area with Canada badly in need of a dominant man in midfield to supplement the artistry of Douglas.

Much of the current problem lies with the front runners who are just not producing the goals and in turn are also placing an extra strain on the defence. No one here is really sure of his position, not even Buzz Parsons who has now played in close to 30 internationals. Kodelja with more experience may yet be the answer to the right wing position but the left wing remains a puzzle.

Coverage of the European tour in the Canadian press, with the exception of the East Germany game, was almost non-existent with the Canadians having to wait two days before learning the result of the game against Hungary. As is normal no Canadian reporters accompanied the team which is perhaps the reason that Canadian soccer players are better known outside of Canada than in. Oddly enough players who are ignored in their own country were deluged with autograph requests throughout Europe.

On December 26 Canada will visit Cuba for two weeks playing possibly two games, while as a result of negotiations carried out during the tour East Germany, the West German amateur team, Hungary and Poland are committed to play in Canada next summer with the possibility of a tournament being staged in some of the Olympic sites which could attract several other nations.

ITALY

	BOLOGNA	JUVENTUS	CAGLIARI	LV	LAZIO	MILAN	SAMPDORIA	NAPLES	ASCOLI	TERNANA	FIORENTINA	TORINO	ROMA	VARESE	INTER-MILAN	CESENA
BOLOGNA	—	2-1	2-0							1-1		1-3	1-0			
JUVENTUS		—				2-1			4-0			0-0	1-0			
CAGLIARI			—	0-0			1-0						1-2	1-1		
LV	0-1			—	1-2					1-0		1-0				
LAZIO	1-0		1-0		—		3-0								1-2	2-1
MILAN				1-0		—	0-0	0-0	2-0		1-1					
SAMPDORIA		1-3		1-1			—	1-1						1-0		
NAPLES			2-0	2-0	1-1			—	3-1							
ASCOLI									—			1-1			0-0	0-0
TERNANA			0-2		1-1		1-1			—	0-1			2-0		
FIORENTINA	1-0			0-0				1-1			—			2-0		
TORINO						1-1				1-1	2-1	—	1-0			2-0
ROMA					1-0	0-1		0-0	1-0				—			
VARESE		0-0							3-1				0-0	—	2-0	1-1
INTER-MILAN	1-1	0-1	4-1			0-0									—	
CESENA		0-1						0-0		2-1	1-1				0-0	—

SPAIN

	ESPANOL	CELTA	LAS PALMAS	BETIS	HERCULES	MURCIA	VALENCIA	REAL MADRID	GIJON	ZARAGOZZA	MALAGA	ATH BILBAO	REAL SOCIEDAD	BARCELONA	SALAMANCA	ELCHE	ATH MADRID	GRENADA
ESPANOL	—	2-0				2-1			0-0	2-1				5-2				1-0
CELTA		—		1-1				3-3			2-0	1-0	1-0			1-2		
LAS PALMAS				3-1			1-1	1-2			1-0	2-0				1-1		
BETIS	0-0			—		1-0				1-0			3-0	1-0				1-1
HERCULES					—	2-2			2-0	0-1				0-0	2-1			
MURCIA		1-0	1-1			—							2-2		2-1			0-0
VALENCIA					1-0		—	1-2			2-0	3-0					1-1	
REAL MADRID	5-0			3-2	2-1			—								5-1	1-0	
GIJON			0-0				2-1		—	2-0				0-1	2-1			
ZARAGOZZA		4-2	3-1				3-1			—					1-1			4-1
MALAGA	2-0				0-1				3-1		—	2-0					0-0	
ATH BILBAO	1-0			0-1	2-2				1-4			—					3-0	
REAL SOCIEDAD					2-2		1-0		1-1		2-0		—	3-2	1-1			
BARCELONA		4-0	3-2				5-2				5-0			—	3-1			
SALAMANCA							0-1	0-0			1-0	0-0			—	2-0		
ELCHE	2-4			2-0		3-0				1-1			3-0			—	1-0	
ATH MADRID						1-0	2-0		2-2	4-0				3-3			—	0-0
GRENADA		1-0	1-1					3-3				1-1	1-0			5-0		—

GREECE

	HERAKLIS	KALAMANTA	KOSTORIA	YANNINA	LARISSA	ATRIMOTOS	OLY. PIREUS	ARIS	PANATHIN'KOS	KAVALLA	PANAHAIKI	PAOK	PANIONIOS	AEK	PANSERAIKOS	ETHNIKOS	EAGALEO	OLY. VOLOV
HERAKLIS	—	5-0	1-1						1-1					0-2				
KALAMATA		—				1-0	0-3									0-3	1-0	
KOSTORIA			—	1-0	3-2								2-0		1-1			
YANNINA				—	0-0			2-1							2-0			3-1
LARISSA					—	0-0					1-2				1-1	1-2		
ATRIMOTOS	0-0					—					2-1							1-2
OLY. PIREUS	3-1		5-1				—	1-0	1-1									4-1
ARIS						3-1		—				2-1			2-1	0-0		
PANATHIN'KOS		4-1	3-2						—	0-0		1-1					2-1	
KAVALLA				2-1		1-0	1-3			—				0-0				
PANAHAIKI				2-1							—	2-0	0-0	0-1				
PAOK	4-1	2-0								6-2		—					2-1	
PANIONIOS				2-1	1-1			1-1					—	0-2				
AEK		3-1			5-1			2-0						—				
PANSERAIKOS										2-0	0-0		2-0		—	0-3		
ETHNIKOS										3-0	2-1		3-1			—		
EAGALEO	1-2		1-0				0-2										—	3-0
OLY. VOLOU						2-1			1-3			0-0		0-1		2-2		—

EUROPEAN LEAGUE REVIEW

European League Review, compiled by Chris Rhys, is a new WORLD SOCCER feature. Each month we will feature a number of different European countries until, at the end of each respective season, readers will have a complete chart of league results.

LUXEMBURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeunesse D'esch	**10**	**7**	**2**	**1**	**29**	**10**	**16**
Avenir Beggen	9	6	1	2	18	11	13
Red Boys	9	4	3	2	17	15	11
Aris Bonnavie	9	4	2	3	18	13	10
Ruhelage	9	3	4	2	16	10	10
Ettelbruck	10	4	2	4	16	14	10
Alliance	10	2	5	3	13	12	9
Union	9	3	3	3	14	14	9
Merl	10	2	5	3	9	16	9
Neidercorn	10	2	2	6	11	19	6
Spora	10	2	2	6	12	22	6
Fola D'esch	9	2	1	6	14	32	5

	ARIS	MERL	JEUNESSE	UNION	RUMELAGE	FOLA	SPORA	BEGGEN	NEIDERCORN	RED BOYS	ALLIANCE	ETTELBRUCK
ARIS	—	1-2	1-2		1-1			2-2	4-1			4-0
MERL		—		2-0	0-0						1-1	1-1
JEUNESSE			—	1-0		6-2			5-1	7-1		2-0
UNION				—			2-1	1-3				1-1
RUMELAGE		5-0		2-2	—	2-3	4-1				1-1	
FOLA		2-2		0-3		—	2-1			2-5	1-2	
SPORA	0-4	2-0	0-3				—	2-3	2-2			2-1
BEGGEN		3-1	3-1					—	1-0			3-0
NEIDERCORN			0-0	1-2	0-1	4-2			—	0-1	2-1	
RED BOYS	5-0	0-0		3-3				1-0		—	1-1	
ALLIANCE	0-1		2-2				1-1	3-0			—	1-2
ETTELBRUCK					2-0	7-0				2-0		—

London's top team at present are West Ham, who beat last season's champions Leeds United 2-1 at Upton Park. Gordon McQueen and Joe Jordan (white shirts) of Leeds contest the ball with Tommy Taylor (5) and Bobby Gould of West Ham.

LEAGUE TABLES

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ujpest Dozsa	**15**	**13**	**2**	**0**	**46**	**16**	**28**
Honved	15	10	4	1	31	9	24
Ferencvaros	15	7	6	2	28	12	20
Csepel	15	7	4	4	23	16	18
Videoton	15	5	6	4	18	21	16
Bekescsaba	15	5	4	6	19	21	14
Zalaegerszeg	15	6	2	7	15	22	14
Diosgyor	14	5	3	6	20	23	13
Raba ETO	15	5	3	7	21	21	13
MTK Budapest	15	3	7	5	13	16	13
Egyetertes	15	3	5	7	18	25	11
Vasas	15	4	3	8	16	26	11
Pecs	15	3	5	7	14	24	11
Salgotarjan	15	3	5	7	12	22	11
Haladas	15	4	3	8	14	27	11
Tatabanya	14	3	4	7	8	15	10

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan	**15**	**9**	**2**	**4**	**39**	**18**	**20**
Teplice	15	7	4	4	17	16	18
VSS Kosice	15	8	1	6	39	26	17
Banik	15	7	3	5	19	14	17
Brno	15	6	5	4	25	22	17
Inter	15	8	0	7	30	23	16
Jablonec	15	7	2	6	15	16	16
Trnava	15	6	4	5	18	21	16
Bohemians	15	5	5	5	21	16	15
Dukla	15	5	4	6	16	17	14
Slavia	15	5	4	6	20	22	14
Trinec	15	4	5	5	12	17	13
Zilina	15	4	5	6	17	28	13
Sparta	15	4	4	7	24	32	12
AC Nitra	15	6	0	9	15	25	12
Skoda Plzen	15	5	0	10	17	31	10

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	**9**	**6**	**2**	**1**	**13**	**4**	**14**
Naples	9	3	6	0	13	4	12
Torino	9	4	4	1	11	6	12
Florentina	9	4	4	1	9	5	12
Lazio	9	5	2	2	12	8	12
Milan	9	3	5	1	7	4	11
Bologna	9	4	2	3	9	8	10
Inter Milan	9	2	5	2	8	7	9
Roma	9	3	2	4	4	5	8
Varese	9	2	4	3	7	8	8
Cesena	9	1	5	3	5	8	7
L. Vincenza	9	2	3	4	4	7	7
Sampdoria	9	1	5	3	6	11	7
Ternana	9	1	4	4	7	10	6
Cagliari	9	2	2	5	6	15	6
Ascoli	9	0	3	6	3	15	3

Naples' 5-0 win over Cagliari on December 1 was the widest winning margin since Inter beat Foggia 5-0 in May, 1971. It was Naples' biggest win since 1968. (This refers to the Italian League).

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olym Piraeus	**8**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**23**	**5**	**16**
AEK Athens	8	7	1	0	16	2	15
Ethnikos	8	6	2	0	18	5	14
Panathinaikos	8	4	3	1	15	9	11
PAOK	8	4	2	2	16	9	10
Yannina	8	3	2	3	9	7	8
Panahaiki	8	3	2	3	8	7	8
Aris	8	3	2	3	9	9	8
Kostoria	8	3	2	3	11	13	8
Heraklis	8	2	3	3	12	12	7
Panseraikos	8	2	3	3	7	9	7
Atromitos	8	2	2	4	6	9	6
Panionios	8	1	3	4	5	12	5
Kavalla	8	1	3	4	4	14	5
Gageleo	8	2	0	6	8	11	4
Larissa	8	0	4	4	7	14	4
Olym Volou	8	1	2	5	7	17	4
Kalamata	8	2	0	6	4	20	4

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	**10**	**7**	**3**	**0**	**26**	**12**	**17**
Barcelona	11	6	2	3	28	17	14
Espanol	11	6	2	3	16	14	14
Betis	11	5	3	3	12	10	13
Granada	11	3	6	2	14	11	12
Gison	11	4	4	3	14	12	12
Zarugozza	11	5	2	4	18	16	12
Elche	11	5	2	4	16	19	12
Ath Madrid	11	3	5	3	13	11	11
Las Palmas	11	3	5	3	13	12	11
Valencia	11	4	2	5	14	15	10
Hercules	11	3	4	4	12	13	10
Real Sociedad	11	3	4	4	12	16	10
Salamanca	11	2	4	5	9	12	8
Murcia	10	2	4	4	9	13	8
Celta Vigo	11	3	2	6	11	18	8
Malaga	11	3	1	7	7	15	7
Ath Bilbao	11	2	3	6	8	16	7

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	**17**	**10**	**4**	**3**	**37**	**12**	**24**
SW Innsbruck	17	10	1	6	31	18	21
VOEST Linz	17	8	4	5	25	18	20
Austria/WAC	17	7	5	5	32	25	19
Austria Salzburg	17	6	6	5	18	29	18
Admira Waeker	17	6	4	7	27	28	16
Austria Klag	17	6	2	9	20	24	14
Sturm Graz	17	5	4	8	19	28	14
Eisenstadt	17	4	5	8	19	34	13
Linz ASK	17	3	5	9	19	31	11

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RWD Molenbeek	**16**	**9**	**7**	**0**	**39**	**15**	**25**
FC Bruges	16	8	5	3	30	16	21
Anderlecht	16	7	7	2	30	11	21
Beerschot	16	8	4	4	24	16	20
Antwerp	16	7	5	4	22	16	19
Standard	16	7	4	5	26	19	18
CS Bruges	16	6	6	4	18	20	18
Lierse	16	7	3	6	23	20	17
SC Charleroi	16	6	5	5	18	21	17
FC Malinois	16	5	7	4	12	10	17
Lokeren	16	5	5	6	23	29	15
Beveren Waas	16	4	7	5	15	14	15
Ostende	16	4	7	5	29	32	15
Montignies	16	4	7	5	17	26	15
Berchem	16	3	8	5	11	14	14
Beringen	15	4	4	7	15	22	12
Liege	16	3	6	7	14	19	12
Waregem	15	2	7	6	14	17	11
Winterslag	16	1	6	9	15	33	8
Diest	16	1	6	9	9	34	8

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	**11**	**8**	**2**	**1**	**24**	**5**	**18**
Porto	11	7	4	0	23	9	18
Vit Guimaraes	11	8	1	2	30	14	17
Sporting	11	6	3	2	19	9	15
Farense	11	6	2	3	19	12	14
Boavista	11	4	5	2	17	11	13
Vit Setubal	11	4	3	4	17	18	11
CUF	11	3	3	5	13	14	9
Leixoes	11	2	5	4	10	12	9
Belenenses	11	3	3	5	16	22	9
Espinho	11	3	3	5	9	18	9
Atletico	11	3	3	5	16	29	9
Olhanense	11	3	2	6	21	26	8
Uniao de Tomar	11	4	0	7	14	22	8
Oriental	11	1	3	7	7	21	5
Academico	11	2	0	9	9	22	4

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ruch Chorzow	**15**	**13**	**1**	**1**	**39**	**8**	**27**
Stal Mielec	15	9	4	2	20	10	22
Lech	15	7	4	4	18	18	18
Wisla	15	6	5	4	19	15	17
Slask	15	7	3	5	18	16	17
Gornik	15	4	7	4	27	20	15
Legia	15	6	3	6	19	17	15
Zaglebie	15	5	4	6	17	17	14
Szombierki	15	4	5	6	21	19	13
ROW Rybnik	15	3	7	5	11	14	13
GKS Tychy	15	4	5	6	15	19	13
Gwardia	15	4	4	7	10	17	12
Polonia	15	3	6	6	12	20	12
Arka	15	4	4	7	13	27	12
Pogon	15	4	3	8	7	17	11
LKS Lodz	15	2	5	8	10	22	9

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	**10**	**7**	**3**	**0**	**14**	**2**	**17**
Fenerbahce	9	5	4	0	16	6	14
Besiktas	10	4	4	2	9	6	12
Boluspor	10	4	4	2	10	8	12
Ankaragucu	9	3	5	1	12	10	11
Adanaspor	10	4	3	3	12	6	11
Trabzonspor	10	3	5	2	5	3	11
Adanademispor	9	4	2	3	9	6	10
Samsunspor	10	3	3	4	10	9	9
Altay	10	2	5	3	9	12	9
Zonguldakspor	10	2	4	4	3	9	8
Bursaspor	8	2	3	3	6	7	7
Eskisehirspor	9	1	4	4	5	9	6
Goztepe	10	0	6	4	6	13	6
Giressunspor	10	1	4	5	6	14	6
Kayserispor	10	1	3	6	3	15	5

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hajduk	**16**	**10**	**3**	**3**	**30**	**15**	**23**
Red Star	16	9	4	3	30	16	22
Vojvodina	16	7	6	3	24	15	20
Radnicki Nis	16	7	5	4	20	18	19
Sloboda	16	6	6	4	19	24	18
OFK Belgrade	16	7	3	6	26	19	17
Zeljeznicar	16	6	5	5	27	21	17
Celik	16	7	2	7	20	21	16
Dinamo	16	3	9	4	19	18	15
Vardar	16	3	9	4	14	18	15
Rarnicki Klag	16	5	5	6	11	19	15
Velez	16	5	4	7	26	17	14
Rijeka	16	4	6	6	15	20	14
Sarajevo	16	4	5	7	18	25	13
Olimpija	16	4	5	7	19	27	13
Bor	16	4	5	7	18	26	13
Partizan	16	4	4	8	19	24	12
Proleter	16	4	4	8	14	26	12

UEFA CUP third round first leg

Napoli 0, **Banik Ostrava** 2 (Albrecht, Kolecko)

Hamburg 4 (Bjornmose 2, Volkert, Nogly), Dynamo Dresden 1 (Schmuck)

Dukla Prague 3 (Dvornk, Krumich, Nehoda), Twente 1 (Jeuring)

Partizan Belgrade 1 (Vukotic), Cologne 0

Borussia Moenchengladbach 5 (Heynckes 2, Simonsen 2, Bonhof), Real Zaragoza 0

FC Amsterdam 3 (Husers 2, Kriegler, own goal), Fortuna Dusseldorf 0

Juventus 1 (Damiani), Ajax 0

Derby County 3 (Bourne 2, Hinton), Velez Mostar 1 (Vladic)

Arsenal goalkeeper Jimmy Rimmer watches his defender Bob McNab clear from the boot of Middlesbrough's Alan Foggon (stripes) at Highbury.

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carl Zeiss Jena	**11**	**9**	**2**	**0**	**21**	**5**	**20**
Magdeburg	11	9	1	1	29	12	19
Stahl Riesa	11	6	2	3	16	14	14
Chemie Halle	11	4	5	2	19	13	13
Dynamo Dresden	11	5	3	3	17	16	13
Sachsenring	11	5	2	4	18	14	12
Rot-Weiss Essen	11	5	0	6	14	16	10
Wismut Aue	11	3	4	4	12	18	10
Dynamo Berlin	11	2	5	4	16	16	9
K Marx Stadt	11	3	2	6	10	20	8
Vor Frankfurt	11	3	1	7	20	20	7
Lok Leipzig	11	3	1	7	15	23	7
Hansa Rostock	11	2	2	7	11	17	6
Vor Stralsund	11	2	2	7	10	24	6

BRAZIL

Carioca Championship (2nd part)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	**5**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**13**	**2**	**9**
Flamengo	6	3	3	0	12	4	9
Vasco da Gama	5	3	2	0	6	2	8
Botafogo	5	3	1	1	9	4	7
Fluminense	5	2	0	3	4	3	4
Madureira	6	1	1	4	7	14	3
Bonsucesso	6	0	2	4	3	11	2
Campo Grande	6	0	2	4	2	9	2

Sao Paulo State League

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Palmeiras	**8**	**6**	**2**	**0**	**14**
Guarani	7	5	2	0	12
Santos	8	3	4	1	10
Juventus	9	2	5	2	9
America	7	2	4	1	8
Botofogo	8	2	3	3	7
Corinthians	7	3	1	3	7
Noroeste	7	2	2	3	6
Comercial	7	0	6	1	6
Sao Bento	6	2	2	2	6
Sao Paulo	5	1	3	1	5
Saad	9	1	2	6	4
Ponte Preta	7	1	0	6	2

ARGENTINA

National Championship

(Two matches to go — then top two of each group enter final round)

Section A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	**16**	**13**	**2**	**1**	**42**	**8**	**28**
Rosario Central	16	12	3	1	35	8	27
Banfield	16	8	3	5	33	23	19
Estudiantes de LP	16	7	4	5	21	18	18
Belgrano (Cordoba)	16	7	3	6	28	19	17
Desamparados San Juan	16	5	4	7	32	28	14
Central Norte Salta	16	5	3	8	19	27	13
All Boys	16	2	4	10	20	35	8
Pto Comercial (B. Blanca)	16	2	0	14	12	63	4

Section B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Talleres (Cordoba)	**16**	**9**	**5**	**2**	**23**	**10**	**23**
Altos Hornos Zapla	16	6	7	3	28	24	19
Newell's Old Boys (Rosario)	16	6	7	3	24	18	19
River Plate	16	6	5	5	29	17	19
Gim. y Esgrima de LP	16	7	3	6	25	20	17
Argentinos Juniors	16	5	6	5	24	27	16
J. Newbery (Jujuy)	16	2	9	5	7	13	13
Colon de Santa Fe	16	3	5	8	15	19	11
Huracan San Rafael	16	1	3	12	9	43	5

Section C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Lorenzo 48A	**16**	**10**	**4**	**2**	**39**	**12**	**24**
FC Oeste	16	11	1	4	25	15	23
Racing	16	8	4	4	28	17	20
San Martin (Tucuman)	16	8	4	4	22	16	20
Chacarita Juniors	16	8	2	6	27	22	18
Aldosivi (M. del Plata)	16	5	4	7	20	27	14
At. Regina (Rio Negro)	16	2	6	8	11	27	10
Dep. Mandiyu (Corrientes)	16	3	3	10	18	34	9
Godoy Cruz (Mendoza)	16	2	1	13	12	33	5

Section D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez Sarsfield	**16**	**10**	**3**	**3**	**31**	**11**	**23**
Huracan BA	16	8	5	3	35	21	21
Independiente	16	8	5	3	41	19	21
San Martin (Mendoza)	16	9	3	4	23	15	21
Atletico Tucuman	16	5	5	6	27	23	15
Huracan (C. Rivadavia)	16	4	5	7	18	38	13
San Lorenzo (M. del Plata)	16	4	4	8	21	29	12
Chaco For Ever	16	3	6	7	16	27	12
Atlanta	16	3	3	10	12	39	9

PERU

National Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Huaral	**33**	**22**	**7**	**4**	**64**	**28**	**51**
Universitario	33	19	12	2	74	30	50
Alianza Lima	33	17	8	8	63	31	42
Defensor Lima	33	15	12	6	57	31	42
Col. Nacional Iquitos	33	15	11	7	47	34	41
Sporting Cristal	33	16	8	9	61	46	40
Juan Aurich	33	14	9	10	53	24	37
Union Tuman	33	13	10	10	46	38	36
Atletico Chalaco	33	12	12	9	38	29	36
Atletico Grau	33	11	12	10	38	34	34
Cienciano	33	12	10	11	46	43	34
Municipal	33	13	7	13	42	46	33
Alfonso Ugarte	33	11	10	12	36	48	32
Melgar	33	11	10	12	12	39	32
Leon de Huanuco	33	10	10	13	36	52	30
Sport Boys	33	8	13	12	39	46	29
Walter Ormeño	33	8	9	16	31	47	25
Sport Pierola	33	8	9	16	33	58	25
Deportivo Junin	33	6	9	18	36	66	21
Pesquero	33	4	13	16	20	52	21
Barrio Frigorifico	33	5	10	18	26	61	20
Carlos Mannucci	33	5	5	23	33	80	15

COLOMBIA

"Finalizacion" Championship (Final standings)

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep. Cali	**21**	**11**	**8**	**2**	**29**	**13**	**30**
America de Cali	21	10	7	4	22	16	27
Millonarios	21	10	6	5	26	14	26
Santa Fe	21	10	4	7	27	21	24
Nacional	21	8	8	5	28	16	24
Junior	21	8	6	7	26	24	22
Medellin	21	5	9	7	23	29	19

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pereira	**21**	**10**	**5**	**6**	**21**	**17**	**25**
Tolima	21	9	3	9	26	29	21
Dep. Quindio	21	9	3	9	30	27	21
Bucaramanga	21	6	6	9	22	23	18
Cucuta	21	5	7	9	22	30	17
Caldas	21	4	4	13	16	36	12
Union Magdalena	21	2	5	14	15	43	9

URUGUAY

First Division

1) Peñarol 25 pts., 2) Nacional 21, 3) Liverpool 19, 4) Bella Vista, Danubio 17, 6) Huracan Buceo, Fenix 12, 8) Rentistas 11, 9) River Plate, Defensor 10, 11) Wanderers 9, 12) Cerro 5. (14 matches played).

PARAGUAY

First Division

First Division (final standings)

1) Cerro Porteño 38 pts., 2) Olimpia 35, 3) Sportivo Luqueño 29), 4) Libertad 28, 5) Guarani 26, 6) Nacional, River Plate 22, 8) Rubio Nu 20, 9) Sol de America 15.

CHILE

First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palestino	**18**	**14**	**3**	**1**	**36**	**21**	**31**
Huachipato	18	14	2	2	34	13	30
Colo Colo	18	11	4	3	35	29	26
Union Española	18	8	5	5	35	27	21
Concepcion	18	8	4	6	26	27	20
Green Cross	18	5	9	4	19	20	19
Aviacion	18	6	7	5	22	24	19
Lota Schwager	18	5	8	5	28	22	18
Universidad de Chile	18	7	3	8	31	31	17
Magallanes	18	7	3	8	26	24	17
O'Higgins	18	6	3	9	20	23	15
Antofagasta	18	5	3	10	20	28	13
Wanderers	18	4	6	8	28	30	14
Union Calera	18	5	4	9	26	37	14
Naval	18	5	4	9	27	31	14
La Serena	18	4	5	9	23	24	13
Rangers	18	5	3	10	28	37	13
Union San Felipe	18	2	4	12	22	37	8

ECUADOR

National Championship

Group A — 1) Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Quito) 14 pts., 2) Nacional Quito, Barcelona (Guayaquil) 11, 4) Universidad Catolica de Quito 10, 5) Emelec (Guayaquil), Universidad de Portoviejo 9, 7) Deportivo Cuenca, America de Quito 8.

Group B — 1) Aucas (Quito) 15, 2) Nueve de Octubre (Guayaquil), Carmen Mora (Machala) 12, 4) Deportivo Quito 11, 5) Olmedo (Cochabamba) 9, 6) Macara (Ambato) 8, 7) Everest (Guayaquil) 7, 8) Manta 6.

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	**14**	**11**	**2**	**1**	**37**	**11**	**24**
Rangers	14	11	2	1	39	13	24
Hibernian	14	9	3	2	30	15	21
Dundee Utd	14	7	4	3	33	15	18
Aberdeen	14	7	2	5	27	20	16
Dundee	14	6	3	5	16	11	15
Dunfermline	14	4	6	4	23	26	14
St Johnstone	14	5	3	6	17	19	13
Ayr Utd	14	5	3	6	20	27	13
Motherwell	14	5	2	7	18	26	12
Airdrie	14	5	2	7	14	22	12
Kilmarnock	14	3	6	5	20	32	12
Dumbarton	14	3	4	7	20	23	10
Clyde	14	3	4	7	18	25	10
Arbroath	14	4	2	8	14	23	10
Hearts	14	2	6	6	19	32	10
Morton	14	3	4	7	15	27	10
Partick	14	3	2	9	19	32	8

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	**12**	**10**	**2**	**0**	**39**	**11**	**22**
Feyenoord	12	9	2	1	37	11	20
Ajax	12	9	1	2	31	11	19
Twente	12	6	3	3	20	10	15
Roda JC	12	6	2	4	20	21	14
AZ 67	12	5	3	4	15	10	13
Excelsior	12	4	5	3	14	14	13
Sparta	12	3	6	3	17	14	12
Telstar	12	3	6	3	15	18	12
Den Haag	12	3	5	3	16	18	11
Utrecht	12	4	3	5	15	23	11
De Graafschap	12	4	2	6	12	24	10
Wageningen	12	2	5	5	11	16	9
MVV Maastricht	12	3	3	6	15	22	9
Amsterdam	12	1	6	5	11	16	8
Go Ahead	12	3	2	7	11	24	8
NAC Breda	12	1	4	7	11	24	6
Haarlem	12	1	2	9	8	31	4

EGYPT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al-Ahly	**11**	**9**	**2**	**0**	**21**	**1**	**20**
Arsenal	11	8	1	2	27	7	17
Olympic	11	7	3	1	15	5	17
Ismaili	10	6	2	2	23	7	14
Misty	11	5	3	2	14	13	13
Mahalla	9	5	1	3	12	7	11
Zamalek	11	4	3	4	13	10	11
ESR	11	4	3	4	11	11	11
Damietta	11	3	4	4	14	16	10
Suez	11	4	2	5	7	11	10
Ittihad	10	2	5	3	5	6	9
Mansoura	11	4	1	6	15	18	9
Aviation	11	2	5	4	11	18	9
Canal	11	3	3	5	5	18	9
Plastics	11	1	6	4	9	16	8
Sharkia	10	2	3	5	8	16	7
Benisuef	11	1	2	8	4	18	4
Menia	10	0	3	7	4	20	3

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slavia	**14**	**8**	**3**	**3**	**30**	**14**	**19**
Levski Spartak	14	7	3	4	26	15	17
CSKA Sofia	14	7	3	4	21	14	17
Dunav	14	8	1	5	22	15	17
Lok Plovdiv	14	6	5	3	30	24	17
Trakia	14	7	2	5	23	22	16
Akademik	14	6	4	4	17	17	16
Sliven	14	4	7	3	21	21	15
Botev	14	4	6	4	21	21	14
Lok Sofia	14	4	5	5	18	20	13
Tschernomore	14	4	5	5	17	23	13
Spartak	14	6	2	7	17	26	12
Minjor	14	4	3	7	14	16	11
Etar	14	3	4	7	18	22	10
Jantra	14	2	5	7	12	23	9
Pirin	14	3	2	9	12	26	8

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke	**20**	**9**	**7**	**4**	**33**	**25**	**25**
Ipswich	20	11	2	7	28	15	24
Liverpool	19	10	4	5	25	14	24
Everton	19	6	12	1	27	19	24
Man City	20	10	4	6	26	25	24
West Ham	20	9	5	6	37	28	23
Derby	19	8	6	5	32	27	22
Newcastle	19	8	6	5	28	25	22
Burnley	20	9	4	7	35	32	22
Sheffield Utd	19	8	5	6	27	30	21
Birmingham	20	8	4	8	31	29	20
Middlesbrough	19	7	6	6	25	26	20
Leeds	19	7	4	8	25	21	18
Wolves	19	5	8	6	22	25	18
Coventry	20	5	8	7	28	37	18
Tottenham	19	6	5	8	23	25	17
QPR	20	6	5	9	22	27	17
Arsenal	19	6	4	9	23	25	16
Leicester	18	5	5	8	20	25	15
Chelsea	19	3	8	8	19	35	14
Carlisle	20	5	3	12	17	24	13
Luton	19	1	7	11	17	31	9

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hertha Berlin	**15**	**8**	**5**	**2**	**27**	**15**	**21**
Brunswick	15	8	4	3	24	14	20
Hamburg	15	8	4	3	24	14	20
Offenbach	15	9	2	4	35	27	20
Frankfurt	15	7	4	4	43	20	18
Bochum	15	8	2	5	27	21	18
Duisburg	15	8	2	5	31	28	18
M'gladbach	14	7	3	4	33	21	17
Schalke	14	8	1	5	21	12	17
Cologne	15	6	4	5	32	27	16
Dusseldorf	15	5	5	5	23	24	15
Kaiserslautern	15	7	0	8	29	26	14
Rot-Weiss Essen	15	5	4	6	22	28	14
Bayern	15	6	2	7	25	35	14
Werder Bremen	15	3	3	9	15	33	9
Stuttgart	15	3	2	10	21	38	8
Tennis Borussia	15	2	1	12	21	41	5
Wuppertal	15	1	2	12	11	40	4

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	**16**	**12**	**1**	**3**	**31**	**13**	**25**
CSM Resita	16	10	3	3	26	14	23
AS Armata	16	10	1	5	24	19	21
Steaua	16	7	3	6	26	17	17
UT Arad	16	7	3	6	16	14	17
CFR Cluj	16	6	5	5	14	15	17
Uni Cluj	16	6	5	5	14	18	17
Uni Craiova	16	6	4	6	19	16	16
Ol Satu Mare	16	6	4	6	14	15	16
Poli Timisoara	16	7	2	7	13	18	16
Steagul Rosu	16	6	3	7	23	15	15
Constanta	16	6	3	7	17	19	15
Jiul	16	5	4	7	23	15	14
Arges	16	6	1	9	21	21	13
Sportul	16	5	3	8	16	22	13
Poli Iassi	16	6	0	10	19	30	12
Chimia	16	3	5	8	11	31	11
Galati	16	4	2	10	6	21	10

MORE LEAGUE TABLES NEXT MONTH

River Plate's leading scorer Morete scores a spectacular goal in a vital match against section leaders Talleres by lifting the ball over the goalkeeper's head.

MARTIN DOBSON Everton

World SOCCER

FAZEKAS Ujpest Dozsa